THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • NOVEMBER 09, 2020 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 32 • LATE CITY EDITION

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DATA OF 2 CRORE BIGBASKET USERS ON SALE ON DARK WEB

A hacker has put customer data, including contact details, on sale for about ₹30 lakh, cyber intelligence firm Cyble said

EMAIL-IDs, ADDRESSES LEAKED: CYBLE

According to Cyble, which routinely monitors the dark web, the data put on sale includes names of customers, email IDs, password hashes, contact numbers, addresses, date of birth, location and IP addresses. The data breach occurred on October 14, but was detected only 17 days later on October 31. After validation, Cyble informed BigBasket on November 1

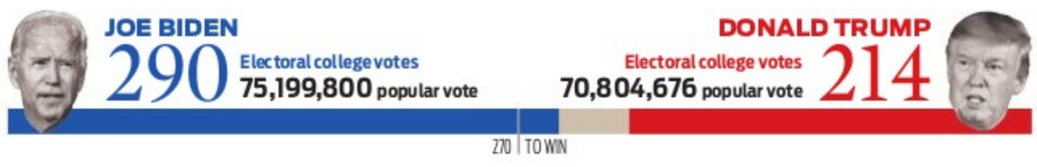
HOW TO CHECK IF YOU HAVE BEEN AFFECTED

- BigBasket said it has lodged a complaint with the Bengaluru Cyber Cell and is evaluating the authenticity of the claim
- If you are worried that your BigBasket data is compromised, you can register on Cyble's data breach monitoring platform, AmiBreached.com, to ascertain your risks

$3bn

EXPECTED SIZE OF INDIA'S ONLINE GROCERY SEGMENT BY YEAR END

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI



EXPECT GREEN CARD, H1-B VISA SQUEEZE TO EASE

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @New Delhi

WITH Joe Biden set to enter the Oval Office in January, the protestations of President Donald Trump notwithstanding, lakhs of Indians who head to the United States every year for studies, employment and immigration could heave a sigh of relief.

In the four years of the Trump administration, it has not been smooth sailing for Indians for whom the US is a land of opportunities and a stepping stone for economic prosperity. From green card-holders, students and H1-B visas, the numbers have been steadily going down.

Take the lawful residence permits, or green cards. The road to the US has been bumpy since Trump took tenancy of the White House, resulting in a decline of Indians acquiring the coveted residency permit.

In 2010, when Barack Obama was President, more than 69,000 Indians got the green card (see table). The number peaked in 2014, when nearly 78,000 Indians managed to get it.

But in the years since, and particularly after Trump became President, it has slowly gone down. Last year, only about 54,000 Indians got the green card, registering a sharp drop of 8.9 per cent from the previous year.

UP AND DOWN

Year	Indians who got green card	% increase/ decrease
2010	69,162	---
2011	69,013	-0.2
2012	66,434	-3.7
2013	68,458	3.04
2014	77,908	13.8
2015	64,116	-17.7
2016	64,687	0.89
2017	60,394	-6.6
2018	59,821	-0.9
2019	54,495	-8.9

Source: Department of Homeland Security

"Biden is likely to be more open to easing restrictions on visas and immigration. It is worth noting that he is the only presidential candidate to release an agenda proposal aimed at Indian-Americans, which, among other things, lays out his plan for visas and immigration," said Kriti Upadhyaya, a researcher at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

She felt that Biden would be more supportive of family-based immigration. "His more progressive visa plans include exempting recent graduates of PhD programmes in STEM fields from any caps," Upadhyaya said.

H1-B visas, the most sought after by Indians, is another area where Trump has cracked down and proposed curbs. Though a US court stayed the move, Trump's decision to halt all non-immigrant visas, including H1-B, caused tension among Indians, especially the IT sector. CONTINUED ON: P7

While I may be the first woman in this office, I won't be the last. Because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities

- Kamala Harris, US Vice President-elect

Karnataka origin Dr Vivek Murthy to head US Covid task force under Biden

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

WITH Democrat Joe Biden winning the US Presidency in a fiercely contested election, former US Surgeon General **Dr Vivek Murthy**, who traces his roots to Hallegere of Mandya district, is expected to take over as the head of the Covid-19 task force of the United States. President-elect Biden is likely to make an official announcement on Monday.

The former Vice Admiral in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, who was also the 19th Surgeon General of the United States, Dr Vivek will have a tough job on hand tackling the pandemic, with the USA leading the world in Covid-19 figures.

Dr Vivek, along with former President Barack Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and others, had rooted for Biden as President.

Speaking to *TNIE*, his father Dr H N Narasimha Murthy confirmed that Dr Vivek will be named the head of the Covid Task Force on Monday and will be leading a team of experts to work on Covid-19 containment and ensure that people get the best health care. P5

Army officer, 3 jawans killed in J&K encounter

Forces foil infiltration attempt by armed terrorists near LoC in one of fiercest shootouts in the Union Territory this year, kill three

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

THREE Army personnel, including one of officer rank, and a Border Security Force constable were killed during an operation to thwart an infiltration bid by a group of heavily-armed terrorists in J&K's Machil sector on Sunday. Three of the terrorists were eliminated.

According to defence spokesman in Srinagar, Colonel Rajesh Kalia, it all started around 1 am when a joint team of Army and BSF troops guarding the Machil sector noticed suspicious movement, about 3.5 km from the Line of Control (LoC).

On inspection, it was found that an infiltration attempt was under way. The troops confronted the infiltrators, leading to an encounter, which lasted until 4 am. A BSF jawan, identified as constable Sudip Sarkar, was killed.

One terrorist was also killed while others managed to slip away after three hours of gunfight.

More troops were then rushed to the area in the pre-dawn hours to search and track the other terrorists down. Drones, helicopters and other surveillance equipment were also deployed.

Finally, more than six hours after the initial gunfight ended, the Army found the terrorists. Around 10.20 am another gunfight erupted about 1.5 km from the LoC, during which two terrorists and three Army soldiers were killed, Colonel Kalia said.

Two soldiers, who were injured were evacuated to a military hospital for specialised treatment.

The anti-militancy operation was still going on when reports last came in.

Defence sources said Sunday's encounter was the second deadliest along the LoC this year.

Sources added that the Army has beefed up security and anti-infiltration grid along the LoC, anticipating Pakistani attempts to push more militants into Jammu and Kashmir before the onset of winter.

J&K LG PAYS TRIBUTES TO SLAIN SOLDIERS

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes on Sunday to the four security forces personnel killed in Kashmir. "The L-G saluted the supreme sacrifice of the jawans and lauded the courage and valour displayed by them while protecting the integrity and sovereignty of the country," a spokesperson said

Slow chug for double engine in Bihar last lap

MUKESH RANJAN @Muzaffarpur/Darbhanga/Bhagalpur

IF the exit poll projections come true when the votes are counted on Tuesday, then the "double engine" that has powered Bihar since 2017 faces the danger of getting derailed. The "double engine" refers to the combination of the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar and the NDA government at the Centre which, in their proclamation, is taking the state on the path of development.

Both Nitish and Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to the "double engine" during the campaign. From the first rally in Sasaram on October 23 to the last address to the voters through an open letter, Modi said he had "full faith that the power of the double engine will take Bihar to new heights of development in the next decade."

But did Bihar really take huge strides because of the double engine? The record is mixed, with the state's economy growing in double digits during 2017-18 and 2018-19, but not doing so well on other fronts.

The cold statistics find expression among the people, with the mood on the ground overwhelmingly of Nitish doing a lot of good work in his first two terms in office but faltering in the last five years, three of which were with the double engine. CONTINUED ON: P8

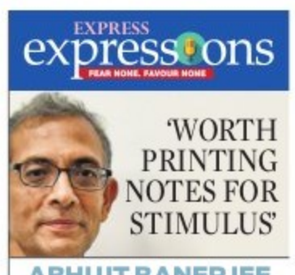
EXPRESS READ

Retired BU Professor hangs self at home

Bengaluru: Prof Ashok Kumar, a retired head of the department of Electronic Media at Bangalore University, committed suicide by hanging at his house here on Sunday. He was hoping to become a V-C of one of the cluster universities, according to his colleagues | P5

Former bureaucrat Senthil joins Cong today

Mangaluru: Former IAS officer S Sasikanth Senthil has announced that he will be joining the Congress on Monday. Senthil, who was the DC in Mangaluru, said his priority for now is to help the DMK-Congress alliance to win the 2021 Tamil Nadu assembly polls | P5



Delaying the enforcement of a strict lockdown would have helped lessen the economic impact of the pandemic, feels Economics Nobel Abhijit Banerjee. Also, India could have printed notes amounting to 3% of its GDP and given it away to the people as stimulus. Even now, it's worth printing and giving 1% of GDP to people, he feels

FULL REPORT: P7

LOSING OUT

Gajani needs to be saved, with a GI tag

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THIS Gajani is not going to do battle. Instead needs to be rescued!

Gajani Kagga crop, a paddy variety, which is being forgotten and lost with the rising hybrid varieties and aquaculture, desperately hopes the Centre will 'rice' to the occasion and give it a Geographical-Indication (GI) tag.

At present, the local farmers, through their association, are protecting the last remaining area. With the losses in aquaculture, farmers are also now demanding seeds from the government to cultivate it again.

The Gajani Kagga paddy variety is unique to the state's coastal belt

The Karnataka Biodiversity Board (KBB) has written to the central government recommending that GI tag be given to Gajani Kagga variety (Oryza sativa), which is now sown in a small pocket of Kumta in Uttara Kannada district. The saline-tolerant variety is unique to coastal regions.

Ananth Hegde Ashisara, chairman of the Board, told *The New Indian Express*: "The Board took the decision because of this variety's uniqueness and the threat it faces. It needs protection and recognition and so we have asked the Ministry of Commerce to give it a GI tag because of the agro-biodiversity of the region."

Experts from Kumta said this was much required. Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (Empri) in its Agro-Diversity report, prepared eight years back on the unique varieties of paddy, had listed Gajani Kagga, pointing that it needs protection. P5

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32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF Fedex (TABLOID) & 4 of City Express

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 09/11/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana: Dakshinayana
Ritu: Sharad • Masa: Nija Ashwayuja • Paksha: krishna • Tithi: Navami 11.52 pm
Nakshatra: Makha 3.38 am • Moon in Simha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Morning clouds

Sunrise 6.16 am
Sunset 5.50 pm
Moonrise 12.21 am
Moonset 1.22 pm

02 BENGALURU MONDAY 09.11.2020 newindianexpress.com

Curves won't slow down Metro on Yelachenahalli line

Unique design with smooth gradient will allow trains to run at regular speed; commuters can interchange between both entrances of 5 stations

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE five elevated stations on the 6.29-km Yelachenahalli-Anjanapura Metro line of Phase-2, which is slated for inspection by the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) after Deepavali, have a unique design at curvatures and sharp turns along its tracks. None of the 40 stations in Phase-I have such a feature.

A detailed presentation was made on the Reach 4B Line by senior Metro officials to the CMRS on Friday. This Southern Extension of the Green Line comprises the five elevated stations of Konanakunte Cross (earlier called Anjanapura Cross Road), Doddakallasandra, Vajrahalli, Thalaghattapura and Anjanapura.

A senior Metro official told *The New Indian Express* that the presence of curves along rails resulted in slowing down of the train as it approaches these points for safety reasons. "To ensure that regular speed of trains is maintained, we have designed the Phase-2 stations in such a way that the lines have a smooth gradient and curve," he said.

A view of the Konanakunte Cross Station in Bengaluru | EXPRESS

Metro stations on Reach 4B are constructed on the median of the existing roads to avoid land acquisition issues. "They have Up and Down lines on either side of the median. The stations have been designed in such a way that commuters can interchange between both entrances of the five stations by using the unpaid area at concourse level. This does away with the requirement of a foot-overbridge for crossing the road. This will help the public enter the stations from any entry point, which will increase the convenience for Metro users."

In Phase-1, this is possible only at Yeshwantpur, Baiyappanahalli and MG Road stations, pointed out urban transportation expert Sanjeev Dyamannavar. BMRCL had submitted a report to the CMRS a fortnight ago. Another report has been submitted on Friday responding to all the clarifications sought, another official said. "The inspection will happen in the third or fourth week of November. It will be after Deepavali only," he said.

2 women among 6 to win top rail awards

Geeta Mohapatra

K Puja

E Aswathappa

K Asif Hafeez

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

SIX railway employees in Karnataka have been selected for the 65th Annual Railway National Award. They are part of the 139 awardees across the country for the financial year ending March 2020.

Their names were announced on November 5 because of Covid and the award ceremony, where Railway Minister Piyush Goyal will present the awards, is likely to be virtual.

Three of the winners, including two women employees, were chosen for their outstanding performance in the Bengaluru Railway Division. Another official from the Central Railway Workshop in Mysuru and two at Yelahanka's Rail Wheel Factory too have been picked.

Bengaluru Divisional Railway Manager A K Verma said, "This is the highest recognition for a railway employee. The four awardees in South Western Railway had to compete with a 37,000-strong workforce in the Zone."

The two women officers have been pioneers in their field. Senior Divisional Operations Manager Geeta Mohapatra, who recently moved to the Railway Recruitment Board as Member Secretary, is the only woman to have taken over the helm of operations in Bengaluru. She said, "We don't work for awards but it feels good to be recognised. Makes you feel confident." She was instrumental in speeding up trains and maintaining punctuality of trains. Commencing the Baiyappanahalli new coaching terminal and opening up of two freight terminals are among her major achievements.

K Puja, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, was the first woman to join as a Junior Electrical Engineer in 2009. "This is once-in-a-lifetime recognition. I have had a smooth career as my bosses were supportive," she said.

Senior Divisional Personnel Manager K Asif Hafeez, instrumental in computerising the Railway exams taken by staffers for promotions, and E Ashwathappa, Chief Depot Materials Superintendent, Central Railway Workshop at Ashokapuram in Mysuru are the other winners.

Yelahanka awardees

The awardees from Yelahanka's RWF are C Prabhakar, Senior Section Engineer and G Venkatesh, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Planning

KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE

Locals carry out a procession to mark Ooru habba (village festival) at Cox Town on Sunday. The festival was a kow-key affair due to Covid pandemic | SHRIRAM BN

Karnataka yet to implement Centre's order, cabbies in lurch

PREEJA PRASAD @ Bengaluru

AUTORICKSHAWS and cab drivers in the state are caught between the Centre's new Motor Vehicle Act 2019 and the state's Motor Vehicle Act. Though the Centre's new act has come into force, the state government is yet to issue a gazette notification implementing this act across the state. "We have not been able to renew our old yellow numberplates to use our vehicles commercially. When we ask the RTO, they say they have received orders not to issue yellow boards. But we are being fined by the traffic police because they are saying no orders have come in yet," said Abdul Mohammed, an autorickshaw driver.

A source in the Transport Department said that the process of issuing boards for different types of of vehicles has created some confusion with the state government not issuing orders yet. As per the New Motor Vehicle Act, vehicles weighing up to 7,500 kg (gross vehicle weight), such as autorickshaws, two-wheelers (commercial service) and small taxi cars which come under the Light Motor Vehicle classification do not require a licence.

The Additional Commissioner of Transport (environment & e-governance) told *TNIE* that the department has written to the Centre, requesting permission to allow yellow boards to be issued, till the state issues an order.

BACK IN THE GAME

Women-only taxi service at airport now has smoother ride

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE increase in domestic passenger traffic at the Bengaluru airport every month means good news for a taxi service operated by and for women at the Kempegowda International Airport. Taxi service GoPink, which was hugely popular among women flyers to Bengaluru, is now seeing much better days. From a fleet of 10 cabs in the pre-Covid days, it has 17 operating from the airport now.

Domestic flight operations which shut on March 25 across the country, resumed on May 25, while regular international flights continue to remain shut with the exception of the Vande Bharat Mission and Air Travel Bubble flights.

GoPink co-founder Anuradha Udayshankar said, "Our business is picking up now, particularly in the last three months. Our cab drivers run four to five trips per day from KIA presently. They are also getting requests for travelling to outstation locations from Bengaluru."

The taxi service, which began operations at the airport on January 7, 2019, is fitted with GPS, panic buttons, mobile data terminal devices as well as pepper sprays to ensure safety of both the driver and the passenger.

Women, senior citizens and children are taken on board the service which allows both pre-booking and spot booking. "We used to operate 24x7 earlier. In the absence of most international flights which used to land at night, we now operate from 5.30 am to midnight and sometimes even an hour beyond it," she said.

"The service ensures that safety protocol is followed. The vehicle is sanitised before every trip," she said.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

09th November: I'd like to pay tribute to all Virgoan people. They are bound to benefit from today's lunar alignments - but they could be a little more sensitive than usual. My advice is to be nice to them - and have them on your side. Treat them badly and they might not say anything, but treat them well and you will win a valuable ally.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Seeing as the Moon is aligned with one of your relationship houses early this morning, you'd better wake up and realise that everything depends on how well you get on with other people. This is no time to tough it out by yourself. After all, you do need partners on your side.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
If I may use a thoroughly Taurean metaphor, now is the time to take the Bull by the horns. In fact, even leisured Taureans must set about achieving their worldly ambitions with slightly more vigour than usual. If you don't get ahead of the game now, then partners will overtake you next week.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You may have little choice but to relax this week. I realise that this may be difficult advice for some of you highly-strung Geminians to follow, but the fact is that you will get nowhere by confronting people or taking risks. Plus, you need to get partners on your side.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Benevolent planets are all lined up with lucrative, if extravagant, regions of your solar chart. You must therefore turn your energies to the very simple matter of earning as much money as you can and then disposing of your gains as wisely as possible.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
An emotional tie has been going through a rather testing phase. However, Venus and Mars, the two planets of physical and emotional attraction, are ready to create the conditions for reconciliation. One gives you extra charm, the other enables you to figure out the details.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
It may not be entirely obvious, but your determination to have your own way in personal matters is succeeding. However, what you must ask is whether you truly want to force other people to accept your ways. If you know what's good for you, you'll turn up the charm.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Venus is magnificently aligned with a number of serious planets, an excellent long-term indication for the Libran lifestyle, bringing emotional warmth, creative fulfilment and pleasures of the most cultured variety. But I have a feeling that it's your fantasies which count for most.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Mercury, ruling your mind, is still a deeply-helpful presence, encouraging you to view the world through your imaginative Scorpionic spectacles. Unfortunately, your unique vision is all too easily swamped by the rigours of daily existence. Perhaps you need to give yourself a little more space?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Much of what has occurred recently, or happens now, may appear to have been designed with your special needs in mind. However, it may be your weaknesses as well as your strengths which are coming under scrutiny. You might have to get a good story ready!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
There are still some bumpy moments - and you'll handle them just fine! The coming period should be relatively smooth, and you'll be free from many of the pressures of the recent past. That has to be good news - doesn't it? You should even have more space for a favourite hobby.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Changes are afoot on the home front and at work, and you need to be well-organised and consistent. Ideal conditions should help you gain from newly-formed social liaisons. You should also maximise any and all financial commitments without further delay.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You are now in the driving seat and you know it. Over the next week or so, your energy levels should increase, as may your ability to charm and woo people whose support for you in the past has not always been wholehearted. The downside is that you may have to listen politely while partners say their piece.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

LOCKHORNS

"WHY DID YOU SPEND THE ENTIRE PARTY TELLING EVERYONE I PICK OUT MY OWN CLOTHES?"

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I WAS AFRAID YOU GUYS WEREN'T COMING BACK!"

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

8					4		7	
	9							
7	1	4			2	9		5
3		6		7		2		
2		9				5		7
		1		8		6		9
6		7	5			3	9	2
							5	
	2		4					6

EASY

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

4	1	7	6	2	5	3	9	8
8	2	9	7	4	3	6	5	1
6	5	3	8	9	1	4	2	7
5	3	1	2	8	9	7	6	4
2	4	6	1	3	7	5	8	9
9	7	8	5	6	4	1	3	2
7	9	4	3	5	2	8	1	6
1	8	5	9	7	6	2	4	3
3	6	2	4	1	8	9	7	5

JUMBLE — THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HRIST

FATRG

TPADUE

FONSET

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Saturday's Jumbles: SLOSH YOUNG EYELID ACCRUE
Answer: With the invention of the DVD, any part of a movie could be — EASILY "SCENE"

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CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Helped to put a new idea to a number (5)
4 Discloses that several changes need to be made (7)
8 Melody that supplies atmosphere (3)
9 Criminal intended to limit one's credit (9)
10 Instalment on a television (7)
11 A movie prize means nothing to Mark (5)
13 A money changer who had a farm (6)
15 The suitor's suit (6)
18 A better supplier of eggs (5)
19 More the sort of thing that has to be proved (7)
21 and 23 Across: The lightest of annual occasions (9,3)
24 Foot pedal that could be altered (7)
25 Not all honourable men do the right thing (5)

DOWN

1 Came irregularly to day school for special studies (7)
2 Dirty room put in order for sleeping (9)
3 Disney character showing inarticulate love (5)
4 Spread all over the place - that was rough (6)
5 There's a lot to be said for being so (7)
6 Turkish leader is against, but not this month (3)
7 Wood spirit (5)
12 The case for a charge (9)
14 A reason why the vessel was fast? (7)
16 Breed of dog that will change some day (7)
17 My ties are disposed to be an impediment (6)
18 I'm illuminawted round the edge (5)
20 No head on the beer that is strange (5)
22 Change colour and pass away we hear (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Spectacles, 8 Cones, 9 Entered, 10 Accused, 11 Epsom, 12 Champs, 14 Astern, 17 Lucre, 19 Embrace, 21 Oculist, 22 Amuse, 23 Now and then.

Down: 2 Panacea, 3 Casts, 4 Amends, 5 Letters, 6 Sorts, 7 Adam and Eve, 8 Chancellor, 13 Preview, 15 Erasure, 16 Beaten, 18 Churn, 20 Beast.

Yeshwanthpur police on Sunday arrested a man for assaulting a police sub inspector near RTO office premises. The accused, Uday Kumar (28), was chased down by passersby and handed over to the police

Cases of STI increase amid pandemic

30-35 per cent rise in sexually transmitted infections, contrary to assumption by experts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE lockdown should have reduced the opportunity of sexual encounters and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), experts had assumed, but they are surprised to see an increase in such cases in the city.

A research presented at the 29th European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology Congress recently found that despite physical restrictions and social distancing that came with the lockdown and the ongoing pandemic, diagnosis of STIs, including gonorrhoea, secondary syphilis and mycoplasma genitalium (MG), had increased.

The research was conducted in Milan, Italy and compared the number of cases between March 15, 2020 and April 14, 2020, with the corresponding period in 2019 and found it to be higher. The researchers stated that the findings show the importance of screening STIs and keeping such services open even during the pandemic.

Dr Sunil Eshwar, Lead Consultant, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Aster RV Hospital, said, "Commonsense is that social isolation and the closure of leisure venues may significantly reduce the opportunity for casual sexual encounters, and some also suggested that quarantine and social distancing measures might reduce the incidence of STIs in the future. But that is not the case."

> **It is important to abstain from sex until seven days after you've completed antibiotic treatment and any sores have healed. Experts also suggest women be retested in about three months because there's a high chance of reinfection**
>
> Dr Sunil Eshwar, Lead Consultant, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Aster RV Hospital

Dr Meena Muthiah, HoD and Consultant, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Manipal Hospitals, Old Airport Road, said that she has seen an increase in cases by 30-35 per cent amid the pandemic. "There is definitely an increase in the number of conceptions since the lockdown, as people were confined to their homes. There is an increase in STI, mostly lower genital tract infection like warts, candida and bacterial vaginosis."

Dr Eshwar said that he is now seeing thrice the number of cases of pelvic inflammatory disease as compared to pre-Covid times. "Untreated chlamydia and gonorrhea infection may result in pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID can lead to chronic pelvic pain, tubal factor infertility and ectopic pregnancy — all of which may negatively impact a woman's future reproductive potential. It is important to abstain from sex until seven days after you've completed antibiotic treatment and any sores have healed. Experts also suggest women be retested in about three months because there's a high chance of reinfection."

The experts recommend use of condoms, self-administered hormonal contraceptive pills and home-based STI screening and treatment kits to help youth prevent unintended pregnancies and STIs.

The treatment given to patients with STIs usually consists of antibiotics or antivirals.

Chitradurga to house vaccine centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chitradurga

THE state government is ready to set up a regional Covid-19 vaccine storage centre in Chitradurga from where the vaccine will be transported to Shivamogga, Davangere, Ballari, Koppal and other neighbouring districts. The storage centre will have a capacity to store 10 lakh doses of vaccines at a time and preparations have been made.

With the time ticking for the release of Covid vaccine in the country, the district health administration has also made arrangements for dispensing the vaccines to be stored at the main centre in Bengaluru.

DHO Dr C L Palaksha said all the frontline workers will be administered vaccine in the first stage and a detailed Covid Vaccine Beneficiary Management System is being prepared and the process will be monitored strictly. Along with storage, vaccines from the regional centre will be distributed among people at the grassroots through 101 cold storage points.

The DHO said that the final stages of training health officials for vaccine administration are being conducted. The vaccines will be procured from Bengaluru and from here, they will be distributed to Shivamogga, Davangere and Ballari districts, he added.

JUST ANOTHER DAY

A health worker gets ready to conduct rapid antigen tests at City Market in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

People get lax, Mandya revives village task force

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

AS many have lowered their guard with Covid cases coming down, authorities in Mandya are reviving the village-level task force teams to monitor and create awareness on Covid restrictions.

Mandya has been seeing a steep reduction in cases and mortality mirroring the statewide trend for over a month and as on Saturday, the district had 819 active cases. With the changing situation and opening up of activities, many people are not following Covid norms, forcing the authorities to revive the task force.

Mandya DHO Dr H P Manche Gowda said that the task force, comprising ASHA workers, junior health assistants, Anganwadi workers, watermen, teachers, and other staff will hit the street to create awareness on safety measures like the use of masks and physical distancing and make them aware of a possible second wave like in Delhi and Kerala.

He said the drive will focus especially on those with comorbidities and the team will also coordinate with gram panchayat authorities to alert them of violations. The DHO said taluk-level awareness marches will also be held.

Meanwhile, officials conducted awareness camps at tourist spots in the district starting with Brindavan Gardens on Sunday.

INDIGO, SPICEJET OFFER TESTS FOR PASSENGERS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AIR passengers heading to Bengaluru Airport and worried whether Covid-19 test results are required to be submitted before boarding their flight can now relax. Two leading private airlines now have an option for their passengers of taking an RT-PCR test before boarding a flight.

Indigo will offer this service at all airports across India and the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, said an official release. "Indigo, the country's largest airline, has partnered with Stemz Health Care to offer Covid-19 RT-PCR tests at affordable rates for passengers travelling on domestic and international flights," said an official release.

To book a test, customers can take an appointment online on the IndiGo website through a co-branded URL page, based on the travel date. Customers can opt for a home visit or choose a lab visit with over 200+ collection centres in India.

Sanjay Kumar, Chief Strategy & Revenue Officer, IndiGo, said, "As per travel guidelines, several states and countries require a Covid-19 RT-PCR test to be undertaken within a stipulated time frame before a customer boards a flight. We are introducing the option to book a test along with the flight."

The release said that in addition, getting the RT-PCR test done may also provide exemption from quarantine to passengers (guidance as per the respective laws of the country/state). Passengers can avail such services through its platform www.stemzglobal.com/covid/Indigo that has been developed, managed and hosted by Stemz.

SpiceJet airline recently announced that they had tied up with VFS Global Services for passengers to book an appointment for a Covid-19 test before their flight. To book a test, flyers can visit the airline's website (www.spicejet.com) and avail the service under its 'Add-On' section.

HELPLINE
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
For subscriptions & Supply related Complaints
Call / WhatsApp
9886143555
7 AM - 4 PM MONDAY to SATURDAY

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I
First Floor Jeevan Mangal Building No.4, Residency Road, Bengaluru – 560 025
O A No. 628/2019

In the Matter of :
State Bank of India, SMECCC Peenya Branch, Bengluru - 560 058 ...**Applicant**
And
Mr. H. S. Palitha S/o. Somegowda, **Proprietor: M/s. Partha Detective & Security Services** ...**Defendant**

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF REB ACT, 1993 (as amended)

To : Mr. H. S. Palitha S/o. Somegowda, Proprietor: M/s. Partha Detective & Security Services, Off: 466, 4th Floor, 3rd Main, 4th Phase, Brindavan Stop, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 058 (PAN CXGPS7699Q), Mob : 7900004855/9620355455

Whereas the applicant has instituted an Application Under Section 19 of the recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (as amended) against the Defendants for a sum of Rs.33,88,344/- as mentioned in the Original Application together with current and future interest and for other reliefs. You are hereby requested to show cause within 30 days of the publication of summons notice or on **07.12.2020** at **10.30 AM** in person or by a pleader Advocate duly instructed as to why relief/s prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on the 14th day of October 2020 .

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal- 1, Bengaluru - 560 001

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-70)
P & SC No. 260/2020

BETWEEN:
1. **SHAMPUR JANARDHAN SHASHIKANTH**, Son of Late Janardhan S, Aged about 54 years, Residing at No.36, Sai Shampur Residency, Basapa Road, Double Road, Shanthinagar, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru-560 027 Represented by his Power of Attorney Holder S J Bindu
2. **S M KIRANA**, Wife of Late S J Mukesh, Aged about 53 years, Represented by her Power of Attorney Holder S J Bindu
3. **CHARAN SHAMPUR MUKESH**, Son of Late S J Mukesh, Aged about 30 years, Represented by her Power of Attorney Holder S J Bindu
4. **S M RACHAN**, Son of Late S J Mukesh, Aged about 21 years, Represented by her Power of Attorney Holder S J Bindu, Parties at Sl.No. 2 to 4 are residing together at No. 35, Rama Iyengar Road, W Puram, Basavangudi, Bengaluru - 560 004.
5. **S J BINDU**, Wife of M S Shyamasundar and Daughter of Late Janardhan S, Aged about 46 years, Residing No. 35/1, Rama Iyengar Road, W Puram, Basavangudi, Bengaluru - 560 004. ...**Petitioners**

AND: NIL ...**Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Petitioners above named, have filed an application under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act for the grant of Succession Certificate in their favour, in respect of Schedule properties mentioned herein below. The schedule properties were held by S. Janardhan Son of Late Shampur Gurumurthy and Sudha, Wife of Late S. Janardhan who expired on 24.07.2001 and 27.04.2009. Interested parties are hereby summoned to appear to this Court in person or by pleader duly instructed, **on 01-12-2020 at 11.00 A.M.,** to show cause against the Petitioners, failing which the appearance will be heard and declared as ex-parte.

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE A PROPERTIES
(Movable Properties owned by Late S. Janardhan)

1) **Share Certificates:**
a) 100 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Recon Limited, Regd. Office in 16/2, O.V.H. Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore- 560004, Regd. Folio Number- REC000758, Certificate number 34321, Distinctive Number – 2232001 to 2232100.
b) 25 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Apollo Tyres Limited, Regd. Office in 6th Floor, Cherupashpam Building, Bhanmugham Road, Cochin – 682031 (Kerala), Regd. Folio Number- S15201, Certificate number 01193542, Distinctive Number – 012473951 to 012473975.
c) 25 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Apollo Tyres Limited, Regd. Office in 6th Floor, Cherupashpam Building, Bhanmugham Road, Cochin – 682031 (Kerala), Regd. Folio Number- S15201, Certificate number 01493542, Distinctive Number – 022212626 to 022212650.
d) 120 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Essar Steel Limited, Regd. Office in Post Hazira, Pin 394270, Dist. Surat. Regd. Folio Number-ADE263164 179293, Certificate number 020118242, Distinctive Number – 0611052847 to 0611052966.
e) 80 Preference shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Essar Steel Limited, Regd. Office in Post Hazira, Pin 394270, Dist. Surat. Regd. Folio Number- ADE263164 179293, Certificate number 000118205, Distinctive Number – 0007368624 to 0007368703.
f) 50 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Bindal Agro Chem Limited, Regd. Office in Village Piprola Jalalabad Road, Shahjahanapur – 242001 (U.P). Regd. Folio Number- BI 329240, Certificate number 2125762, Distinctive Number – 111056560 to 111056609.
g) 50 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Bindal Agro Chem Limited, Regd. Office in Village Piprola Jalalabad Road, Shahjahanapur – 242001 (U.P). Regd. Folio Number- BI 329240, Certificate number 2125763, Distinctive Number – 111056610 to 111056659.
h) 400 Equity shares of Rs.5 each in physical format in Torrent Pharmaceuticals Limited, Regd. Office in "Torrent House", Off Ashram Road, Ahmedabad. Regd. Folio Number-00000610, Certificate number 00003478, Distinctive Number –42346681 to 42347080.
i) 400 Equity shares of Rs.5 each in physical format in Torrent Pharmaceuticals Limited, Regd. Office in "Torrent House", Off Ashram Road, Ahmedabad. Regd. Folio Number- 00000610, Certificate number 00000104, Distinctive Number –41001 to 41400.
j) 10 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Pfizer Limited, Regd. Office in 163, Backbay, Reclamation, Bombay. Regd. Folio Number- J00260, Certificate number PZ3241, Distinctive Number –2449401 to 2449410.
k) 10 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Pfizer Limited, Regd. Office in Pfizer Centre, Patel Estate, Patel Estate Road, Opp B.V. Road, Jogeshwari (West), Mumbai - 400102. Regd. Folio Number- PZ P0016075-0, Certificate number 00304079, Distinctive Number –0016937045 to 0016937054.
l) 100 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Can Fin Homes Limited, Regd. Office in "Shanti Kutir" No. 32 2nd Floor, Race Course Road, Bangalore - 560001. Regd. Folio Number- S3396, Certificate number 12882, Distinctive Number –7686501 to 7686600.
m) 100 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Can Fin Homes Limited, Regd. Office in "Shanti Kutir" No. 32 2nd Floor, Race Course Road, Bangalore - 560001. Regd. Folio Number- S3396, Certificate number 12883, Distinctive Number –7686601 to 7686700.
n) 20 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited, Regd. Office in #19, Bishop Gardens, Raja Annamalaipuram, Madras 600028. Regd. Folio Number- J1057, Certificate number 043173, Distinctive Number –5061312 to 5061331.
o) 15 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited, Regd. Office in #19, Bishop Gardens, Raja Annamalaipuram, Madras 600028. Regd. Folio Number- J1057, Certificate number 026080, Distinctive Number –4529219 to 4529233.
p) 13 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited, Regd. Office in #19, Bishop Gardens, Raja Annamalaipuram, Madras 600028. Regd. Folio Number- J1057, Certificate number 036110, Distinctive Number –4803990 to 4804002.
q) 25 Non-convertible portion of Rs.65/- of the Debenture of Rs.140/- each amount paid up per Debenture Rs.65/- in physical format in Apollo Tyres Limited, Regd. Office in 6th Floor, Cherupashpam Building, Bhanmugham Road, Cochin – 682031 (Kerala), Regd. Folio Number- S15201, Allotment number 01893542, Distinctive Number – 004071951 to 004071975.

SCHEDULE B PROPERTIES
Movable Properties owned by Late Sudha

2) **Share Certificates:**
a. 157 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Vijaya Commercial Credit Limited, Regd. Office in S.R.S. Home Commercial Complex K.R.R. Road Mangalore-575003, Regd. Folio Number–191815 Certificate number 009658, Distinctive Numbers – 1050976 to 1051132.
b. 50 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Vijaya Commercial Credit Limited, Regd. Office in S.R.S. Home Commercial Complex K.R.R. Road Mangalore- 575003. Regd. Folio Number– RSS068 Certificate number 53502, Distinctive Numbers – 3406308 to 3406357.
c. 10 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Vijaya Commercial Credit Limited, Regd. Office in S.R.S. Home Commercial Complex K.R.R. Road Mangalore- 575003. Regd. Folio Number– RSS068 Certificate number 53503, Distinctive Numbers – 3406358 to 3406367.
d. 60 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Vijaya Commercial Credit Limited, Regd. Office in S.R.S. Home Commercial Complex K.R.R. Road Mangalore- 575003. Regd. Folio Number– RSS068 Certificate number 15942, Distinctive Numbers – 01631777 to 01631836.
e. 50 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Vijaya Commercial Credit Limited, Regd. Office in S.R.S. Home Commercial Complex K.R.R. Road Mangalore- 575003. Regd. Folio Number– RSS068 Certificate number 37188, Distinctive Numbers – 2706317 to 2706366.
f. 50 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Vijaya Commercial Credit Limited, Regd. Office in S.R.S. Home Commercial Complex K.R.R. Road Mangalore- 575003. Regd. Folio Number– RSS068 Certificate number 48604, Distinctive Numbers – 3221406 to 3221455.
g. 10 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Vijaya Commercial Credit Limited, Regd. Office in S.R.S. Home Commercial Complex K.R.R. Road Mangalore- 575003. Regd. Folio Number– RSS068 Certificate number 48605, Distinctive Numbers – 3221456 to 3221465.
h. 100 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Vijaya Commercial Credit Limited, Regd. Office in S.R.S. Home Commercial Complex K.R.R. Road Mangalore- 575003, Regd. Folio Number– 191815 Certificate number 29179, Distinctive Numbers – 2267172 to 2267271.
i. 40 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Vijaya Commercial Credit Limited, Regd. Office in S.R.S. Home Commercial Complex K.R.R. Road Mangalore- 575003, Regd. Folio Number– 191815 Certificate number 29180, Distinctive Numbers – 2267272 to 2267311.
j. 50 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Vijaya Commercial Credit Limited, Regd. Office in S.R.S. Home Commercial Complex K.R.R. Road Mangalore- 575003. Regd. Folio Number– RSS068 Certificate number 43564, Distinctive Numbers – 3006368 to 3006417.
k. 30 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Vijaya Commercial Credit Limited, Regd. Office in S.R.S. Home Commercial Complex K.R.R. Road Mangalore- 575003. Regd. Folio Number– RSS068 Certificate number 43565, Distinctive Numbers – 3006418 to 3006447.
l. 50 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Essar Oil Limited, Regd. Office in Essar House, 14 Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Madras- 600006, Regd. Folio Number– EO 439697 Certificate number 1317894, Distinctive Numbers – 351938059 to 351938108.
m. 50 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Essar Oil Limited, Regd. Office in Essar House, 14 Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Madras- 600006, Regd. Folio Number– EO 439697 Certificate number 747912, Distinctive Numbers – 233517006 to 233517055.
n. 50 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, Regd. Office in 123, Angappa Naicken Street Madras- 600001, Regd. Folio Number– ST023055 Certificate number 97885, Distinctive Numbers – 04318856 to 04318905.
o. 50 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, Regd. Office in 123, Angappa Naicken Street Madras- 600001, Regd. Folio Number– ST023055 Certificate number 57885, Distinctive Numbers – 02593856 to 02593905.
p. 50 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, Regd. Office in 123, Angappa Naicken Street Madras- 600001, Regd. Folio Number– ST023055 11574 Certificate number 133655, Distinctive Numbers – 05842706 to 05842755.
q. 25 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Bindal Agro Chem Limited, Regd. Office in 12th Floor, Gopala Tower, 25, Rajendra Palace, New Delhi- 110008, Regd. Folio Number– BI 329243 Certificate number 567569, Distinctive Numbers – 27917682 to 27917706.
r. 25 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Bindal Agro Chem Limited, Regd. Office in 12th Floor, Gopala Tower, 25, Rajendra Palace, New Delhi- 110008, Regd. Folio Number– BI 329243 144408 Certificate number 1175243, Distinctive Numbers – 55859558 to 55859582.
s. 50 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Bindal Agro Chem Limited, Regd. Office in Village Piprola, Jalalabad Road, Shahjahanpur- 242001 (U.P.), Regd. Folio Number– BI 329243 129116 Certificate number 2125768, Distinctive Numbers – 111056860 to 111056909.
t. 50 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Bindal Agro Chem Limited, Regd. Office in Village Piprola, Jalalabad Road, Shahjahanpur- 242001 (U.P.), Regd. Folio Number– BI 329243 129116 Certificate number 2125769, Distinctive Numbers – 111056910 to 111056959.
u. 114 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Ispat Industries Limited, Regd. Office in Park Plaza, 71, Park Street, Kolkata- 700016, Regd. Folio Number– S0034536 Certificate number IIES00101673, Distinctive Numbers – 18519036 to 18519149.
v. 76 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Ispat Industries Limited, Regd. Office in Park Plaza, 71, Park Street, Kolkata- 700016, Regd. Folio Number– S0034536 Certificate number IIP 00101629, Distinctive Numbers – 12345390 to 12345465.
w. 100 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Essar Steel Limited, Regd. Office in Post Hazira, Pin 394270, Dist. Surat, Regd. Folio Number–ADE263148 179290 Certificate number 000118198, Distinctive Numbers – 0007368188 to 0007368287.
x. 150 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Essar Steel Limited, Regd. Office in Post Hazira, Pin 394270, Dist. Surat, Regd. Folio Number–ADE263148 179290 Certificate number 020118235, Distinctive Numbers – 0611052193 to 0611052342.
y. 10 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Reliance Petrochemicals Limited, Regd. Office in Village Mora, P.O. Bhatha, Surat Hazira Road, Dist. Surat, Gujarat-394510, Regd. Folio Number– 52851041 Certificate number 00232924, Distinctive Numbers – 060585276 to 060585285.
z. 10 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Reliance Petrochemicals Limited, Regd. Office in Village Mora, P.O. Bhatha, Surat Hazira Road, Dist. Surat, Gujarat-394510, Regd. Folio Number– 52851041 Certificate number 02020014, Distinctive Numbers – 083330011 to 083330020.
aa. 100 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Reliance Petrochemicals Limited, Regd. Office in Village Mora, P.O. Bhatha, Surat Hazira Road, Dist. Surat, Gujarat-394510, Regd. Folio Number– 52851041 Certificate number 05792334, Distinctive Numbers – 295021020 to 295021119.
bb. 100 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Reliance Petrochemicals Limited, Regd. Office in Village Mora, P.O. Bhatha, Surat Hazira Road, Dist. Surat, Gujarat-394510, Regd. Folio Number– 52851041 Certificate number 05792335, Distinctive Numbers – 295021120 to 295021219.
cc. 100 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Reliance Petrochemicals Limited, Regd. Office in Village Mora, P.O. Bhatha, Surat Hazira Road, Dist. Surat, Gujarat-394510, Regd. Folio Number– 52851041 Certificate number 05792336, Distinctive Numbers – 295021220 to 295021319.
dd. 80 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Reliance Petrochemicals Limited, Regd. Office in Village Mora, P.O. Bhatha, Surat Hazira Road, Dist. Surat, Gujarat-394510, Regd. Folio Number– 52851041 Certificate number 05792337, Distinctive Numbers – 295021320 to 295021399.
ee. 4 Equity shares of Rs.10 each in physical format in Videocon Industries Limited, Regd. Office in Auto Cars Compound, Adalat Road, Aurangabad- 431005, Regd. Folio Number– VL 00407867 Certificate number 384753, Distinctive Numbers – 0207964299 to 0207964302.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 2nd day of November 2020.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Address for service: Sanjay H. Sethiya, Advocate
Law Square, Advocates & Solicitors
Level Two, No.2/1, 3rd Cross, Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 020.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that, my client **SRI. RAGHU KANNAN** S/o, K. Kannan, Residing at, #241/-1, 1st Cross, Near Mouna Guru Temple. Thimmiah Garden, Doddigunta Cox Town, Fraser Town, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560005. Entered into sale agreement for purchase of the below mentioned Schedule property from its lawful owners. **1. SRI. M. NARAYANASWAMY,** S/o, Late, Muniswamappa, **2. SMT. M. MANJULA,** W/o, sri. M. Narayanaswamy, Both are R/at, No-44, 'Amrutha Nilaya', 2nd Cross, Green Park Layout, Dodda Banasawadi, Bangalore- 560043.

Any person or persons, Bank, financial institutions etc, having any valid right, title interest or any claim over the Schedule Property or any portions of it in any manner may with documentary evidence lodge their objections/ claim within 15 days from the date of this notice with the undersigned, if no valid objections are received within the stipulated date, our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the immovable property Residential House bearing No. 38, Property No.116, Khatha No. 173, SL No. 490, consisting of fully Constructed Ground, first, second, and third floors, inclusive of all basic amenities and rights etc, Measuring East to West 40 feet, and North to south (21'6 + 22'6") feet, in total extent 880 Sq.ft, situated at Horamavu Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Now comes under the Jurisdiction of BBMP, Bangalore & bounded by- **East by:** Site No- 32, **West by:** 25 feet wide Road, **North by:** Site No-39, **South by:** Private Property.

Ashok, Advocate
M/s. CHAMPS Associates
Advocates and Solicitors
No. 11, G-6, V.M.C. Complex. 10th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bangalore-560 002.
Mobile: 9036438374

ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
2nd Floor, Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri - 522 503
email: aphmhidc@gmail.com & ed.apmsidc16@gmail.com

Tender Notice No.14/APMSIDC/2020-21, Dated:07.11.2020

APMSIDC invites tenders through e-procurement platform for
Equipment Wing: 1. Procure and supply of Equipment, consumables and furniture in HWCs 2. Procure and supply of medical and general equipment to DMOs under NVBDCP funds 3. Procure and supply of Medical Equipment and other activities under NHM Funds. 4. Procurement and supply of Lab Equipment to DCA 5. Procure and supply of Lab equipment to 3VRDL labs in AP. 6.Procurement of 104 MMU Vehicles and 108 Ambulances 20 nos each for tribal areas in AP
Civil Wing: T.No 6/APMSIDC/Technical/2020-21, Dt.07.11.2020
1. Establishment of City Diagnostic Centers and regional Drug Stores at Visakhapatnam, Tirupathi and Vijayawada, approx. value of each work Rs.1600 Lakhs

APMSIDC will reserve the right to cancel the tenders at any time without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- Managing Director

BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
CIN No.U27310WB1920GOI003601
"KANKARIA CENTRE", (4TH & 5TH FLOOR), 2/1, RUSSEL STREET, KOL-71

e-NIT NO : B&R / HO / 51181 / TD / CINDA - BUILDING, ROADS & DRAINS / 01

Online "Single Percentage rate" Bid(s) / offer(s) are invited in two part bid system for "CONSTRUCTION OF SUBSTATION BUILDING, CCR BUILDING, PIPE RACK RCC STRUCTURE, ROADS AND DRAINS ETC ON SUBCONTRACT BASIS IN CONNECTION WITH "CIVIL WORKS FOR GENERAL BUILDINGS AND FOUNDATIONS (AREA-2) OF LNG PROJECT, FOR CINDA ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED, DLTPL DHAMRA, ODISHA".

Date of hosting in CPP Portal: 09.011.2020.
Last Date of submission of offer: 23.11.2020 within 5.00 P.M.
Interested Bidder(s) have to enroll & register with the Government e-Procurement System and download the Tender document through logging on to https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app
Corrigendum / Addendum, if any shall be hosted in CPP Portal: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and in Company's Website http: www.bridgeroof.co.in.

IDBI BANK
IDBI Bank Ltd- No.147-148, Vijay Enclave, D.B. Road, R.S.Puram, Coimbatore-641002, Phone : 04222478500

POSSESSION NOTICE

Appendix IV [Rule 8(1)] (For Immovable Property)

Whereas The undersigned being the authorised officer of **IDBI Bank Limited** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **July 27, 2020** calling upon the borrower **M/s.Bull Brothers Exports,** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.50,80,131.38 (Rupees Fifty Lakh Eighty Thousand One Hundred and Thirty One and Paise Thirty Eight Only)** within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below, in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **4th day of November of the year 2020.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IDBI Bank Limited** for an amount of **Rs. 50,84,386.38 (Rupees Fifty Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Three Hundred and Eighty Six and Paise Thirty Eight only) as on 01.11.2020** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY :

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Khatha No:630/25 /19/ 202/ 25, measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 60 feet, totally measuring 3000 sq feet, situated at ward No.10, Gulobanahalli, Devanahalli Town, Bangalore Rural District and **Bounded as:** East by: - Road, West by:-property no.202/32, North by:-Property No. 202/26, South by:-Property No.202/24.

04/11/2020

Sd/- Authorised Officer
IDBI Bank Ltd.

THE TAMILNADU COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED
AAVIN ILLAM 3-A, Pasumpon Muthuramalinganar Salai, (Chamiers Road), Nandanam, Chennai- 35.
Telephone : 044-23464500, Fax : 044-23464505, E-mail-aavindgmeng@yahoo.co.in

REF. NO:11733/EOI-SLM & MVM/Proj-3/2020 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 06.11.2020

The TCMPF Ltd., invites **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) TENDER** by way of **OFF LINE / E-SUBMISSION** from the Reputed Technical Consultancy Agencies for providing Technical Consultancy Services for Designing and Establishment of following New plants at Salem and Madhavaram under DIDF Scheme.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Pre-bid Meeting	Last Date and Time for Submission of EOI	Date and Time of Opening EOI
1	Establishment of 7.0 LLPD Capacity New Dairy Plant and 30 MTPD Capacity New Powder Plant at Salem DCMPU with Civil Works (Including ETP) at an Estimated Project Cost of Rs.14014.00 Lakhs.	18.11.2020 at 11.30 AM	24.11.2020 upto 02.00 PM	24.11.2020 at 02.15 PM
2	Establishment of 10.0 LLPD Capacity New Dairy Plant Expandable to15.00 LLPD at Madhavaram with Civil Works (Including ETP) at an Estimated Project Cost of Rs.14218.66Lakhs.			

EOI Tender Document sale between **09.11.2020 to 23.11.2020** from **11.00 A.M. to 3.00 P.M.**, cost - Rs.2,000.00 + 18% GST and Rs.100.00 extra by post. For EOI Details, documents and EMD amount payable, etc., please refer website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and **www.aavinmilk.com** for **off line/ www.tntenders.gov.in** for **e-submission.** EOI Tender documents can be downloaded at free of cost.

DIPR/4180 /TENDER/ 2020 **The Deputy General Manager (Engg.), Head Office**

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ನೋಟೀಸ್

ಶ್ರೀ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಾರಾಯಣ ಗುಬ್ಬ (ಡಿಐಎನ್ 00467460) ಅವರು ದಿವಂಗತ ಕೃಷ್ಣಯ್ಯ ಗುಬ್ಬ ಅವರ ಪುತ್ರರಾಗಿದ್ದು 55 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸುಳ್ಳವರಾಗಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಬನಶಂಕರಿ ಮೂರನೇ ಹಂತದ 6ನೇ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ನ ಐದನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 222, ಮಾತಾ ನಿಲಯದ ವಾಸಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವರು 2020ರ ನವೆಂಬರ್ 3ರಿಂದ ಮಾತಾ ಓವರ್‌ಸೀಸ್ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾತಾ ರಾಕ್ಸ್ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್‌ನ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಾರಾಯಣ ಗುಬ್ಬ ಅವರು ಕಂಪನಿಯ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸುವುದಾಗಲಿ, ಯಾರಿಂದಲಾದರೂ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವುದಾಗಲಿ, ಯಾವುದೇ ಹೊಸ ಆರ್ಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಾಗಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿಧದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ವ್ಯವಹಾರ ನಡೆಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಎಚ್ಚರದಿಂದಿರಬೇಕು. ಶ್ರೀ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಾರಾಯಣ ಗುಬ್ಬ ಅವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ವ್ಯವಹಾರ ಮಾಡದಂತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಶ್ರೀ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಾರಾಯಣ ಗುಬ್ಬ ಅವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ/ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳು ಅಥವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ವ್ಯವಹಾರ ನಡೆಸಿ ತೊಂದರೆಗೀಡಾದರೆ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವರೇ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರರಾಗಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಶ್ರೀ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಾರಾಯಣ ಗುಬ್ಬ ಅವರ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾನೂನು ಬಾಹಿರ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳಿಗೆ

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday said, "I have asked officials to do justice to those who gave up their land for Sharavathi project. The problem will be solved permanently."

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Poll drives them crackers

This coming Tuesday could well see a mini Deepavali. Cracker ban or not, green or whatever colour, noise and smoke or not, there could be plenty of fireworks. Recently when a cracker shop was buzzing with festival shoppers, a young bunch burst in and demanded a chain of 30,000! No, it's not a cracker garland to be given to some neta. It is nothing but 30,000 firecrackers strung together in a chain. Well, this explosive chain is not for the festival but to be used when the bypoll results are announced on Tuesday. When it comes to poll (even if it is bypolls) celebrations and bursting crackers, all netas, cutting across party lines, and their supporters are united. Of course, it depends on whether you are the winner or the loser.

No political fireworks

CM B S Yediyurappa's travel plans and Opposition leader Siddaramaiah's revealed that both were in Shivamogga on Sunday. Some political watchers noted this development with raised eyebrows — two giants in one place at the same time? Both the leaders came on a personal visit. First, Yediyurappa alighted from a helicopter and said BJP would win the bypolls. One and half hours later, Siddaramaiah too landed in a helicopter and later harped on leadership change in the State. This time round, Yediyurappa didn't react. Those who expected some fireworks would have been disappointed.

From Guru-Shishya to relatives

The bypolls are over but KPCC president D K Shivakumar is busy running around town on some errands. This time it is personal. Shivakumar's daughter is set to get engaged to S M Krishna's grandson and late Siddhartha V G's son Amartya on November 19. Shivakumar's daughter Aishwarya, an engineering graduate, manages Global Academy of Technology in Bengaluru. With this engagement, Shivakumar, who has always deemed Krishna his political guide, will turn his bond with the former into family ties. Despite Krishna's jump to BJP from the Congress, it has changed nothing between him and Shivakumar.

WON'T VEST POWER WITH FEW PEOPLE: DKS

Party team working on changing public perception of KPCC chief from popular leader to mass leader

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

EXIT polls have predicted a big win for the BJP in the Sira and Rajarajeshwari Nagar bypolls, but Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D K Shivakumar believes otherwise. "Exit polls have predicted the outcome based on their estimation. We are confident that people have blessed us," Shivakumar told *The New Indian Express*.

The two seats make a little difference to the government or the opposition, but being his debut electoral battle as KPCC chief, it matters to Shivakumar — especially because both Sira and RR Nagar are Vokkaliga-dominated seats.

The CBI raids on his properties in the run-up to the election made it more personal for the Vokkaliga leader.

Apart from losing their MLAs to the BJP, Congress has also lost many of its local and grassroots level leaders.

Party leaders agree that the loss of this cadre has made a dent in RR Nagar. "I made a big blunder by giving full responsibility to these leaders. This won't happen in the future," Shivakumar said.

Cultivating new leadership, Congress believes, is the way forward apart from stopping the cadre drain. Congress workers aspiring for party posts and Assembly poll tickets have been dispatched to work in elections at the grassroots, including Taluk Agricultural Produce Co-operative Marketing Society polls. Shivakumar himself was in Kanakapura for these polls on Sunday.

KPCC president D K Shivakumar recently met a Tamil Nadu MLA at his Bengaluru residence

Those around Shivakumar insist that there is a conscious effort to change his public perception from that of a 'popular leader' to a 'mass leader' cutting across caste lines.

He has a team of young party workers doing this, but is also open to outside assistance. "I don't need 'rebranding'. I rely on my experience, but will not reject any suggestions. I am open to their (private consultancy) technology and strategy. I will be happy if something good comes out of different people putting their minds together but these groups are not able to convince me till now," he said.

While losing both seats will come as a loss of face for Shivakumar, party leaders are keen on sharing the responsibility. "Whatever may be the result, I am happy that the entire cadre has worked together," he said, insisting that his political experience in fielding Kusuma in Rajarajeshwari Nagar has proved right.

"When we started campaigning with Kusuma, there was no support. But now even the exit polls predict over 30 per cent vote share for her. That is a big number for a new face with no presence or experience. We will look at more new faces," he added.

I don't need 'rebranding'. I rely on my experience, but will not reject any suggestions. I am open to their (private consultancy) technology and strategy. I will be happy if something good comes out of different people putting their minds together but these groups are not able to convince me till now

DK Shivakumar, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president

Don't comment on future leadership: Cong panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

The disciplinary committee of the State Congress has urged its leaders and workers to desist from making public statements about the party's future state leadership after some of them aired divergent views on who would head the government if the party came to power.

This comes specially after the names of legislature party leader Siddaramaiah and party's state unit president D K Shivakumar are being touted to be the next chief ministerial candidate by their supporters.

The committee felt it would be wise to leave this issue to the time when the relevant question of leadership would need to be discussed in the party.

"In a meeting held on November 5, the KPCC Disciplinary Action Committee noted with concern the differing views being expressed by leaders of the party on the question of future leadership of the legislature party," said committee chairman K Rahman Khan.

The KPCC Disciplinary Action Committee noted with concern the differing views expressed by leaders of the party on the question of future leadership of the legislature party

K Rahman Khan, committee chairman

He said that the committee requested all the elected representatives, leaders, office-bearers and workers of the party to desist from such public statements in the interest of party unity.

"It would be better if party leaders and workers engaged themselves in organising the party and work with an aim to bring the party to power in the interest of our state," Khan added.

Former minister and MLA B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan had recently said Siddaramaiah would be the Chief Minister once again while a few of his party colleagues, including Rajya Sabha Member G C Chandrashekhar, MLA Sowmya Reddy, and Hanumantharayappa had reportedly claimed that Shivakumar would occupy the top post on Congress coming to power.

Unwilling to stoke any controversy, Shivakumar said, "First, we need to come to power. Then the high command and legislators will decide on this."

BJP's Turvihal joins Congress ahead of bypoll in Maski

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BJP leader Basana Gouda Turvihal, who contested from the Maski Assembly constituency in 2018 against then Congress candidate Prathap Gouda Patil, joined the Congress on Sunday, after holding hush-hush talks with party leaders for weeks.

The Congress said that Turvihal's entry will give a big boost to the party in the region as he had served in the local zilla panchayat for two terms. Also, he could reduce the dent caused by Prathap Gouda, who took away nearly 80 per cent of the party's cadre when he switched from Congress to BJP.

Turvihal lost to Prathap Gouda by a wafer-thin margin of 213 votes in 2018.

A by-election is necessitated in the constituency as Prathap Gouda switched parties in the middle of the term.

Both parties are girding up for an intense fight and the Election Commission is expected to announce the date for the bypoll soon after the results of RR Nagar and Sira Assembly by-elections on November 10.

Prathap Gouda first won from Maski in 2008 on a BJP ticket and switched to Congress in 2013 when the BJP splintered into KJP, BSR and BJP. A Nayaka leader, he won again in 2013 and 2018.

His narrow margin of victory in 2018 was blamed on a large number of Lingayats, who form a major chunk of the electorate, voting for Turvihal, who is from the community.

Political observers said, "The big question now is whether Turvihal will get those Lingayat votes to the Congress during the bypoll."

Maski has about 60,000 Lingayat voters, 50,000 Valmiki Nayakas, 40,000 Scheduled Castes, 16,000 Kurubas and 10,000 Muslims.

I saw wave in favour of our party in Sira, RR Nagar, says Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Shivamogga

DESPITE an exit poll predicting a sweep by the BJP in both Rajarajeshwari Nagar and Sira Assembly by-elections, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah on Sunday expressed confidence that the Congress will win both seats.

"I don't know what the exit poll has based its predictions on. When I campaigned in both the constituencies, I saw waves in favour of Congress. I'm confident that we will win both seats, despite BJP bribing the voters," he said.

The exit polls in Bihar seems to have hit the nail on the head by predicting victory for Mahagathbandhan, as the people of the state, especially youngsters and the unemployed, are against Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, he said.

"People are fed up with the Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar governments. Nitish has failed to address the issues of migrants, while there was an anti-incumbency factor too," he added.

He reiterated that B S Yediyurappa will be replaced once the results of Bihar Assembly elections are out on November 10. But the chief minister had recently hit back at Siddaramaiah saying it is not him, but the Congress Legislature Party leader who will be asked to vacate the post soon.

People are fed up with the Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar governments. Nitish has failed to address the issues of migrants, while there was an anti-incumbency factor too

Siddaramaiah, Congress Legislature Party leader

Siddaramaiah alleged that Union Minister Pralhad Joshi is behind the arrest of Congress leader Vinay Kulkarni, who contested against him in the Dharwad Lok Sabha constituency. "The state police had conducted the investigation and filed chargesheet too in the Yogesh Gouda murder case. Kulkarni's name was not in the chargesheet. Now, the CBI is planning to make Kulkarni an accused bowing to pressure from Joshi. But, the Congress will not fall prey to such tactics," he said.

TOUGH CALL

With result day nearing, CM faces reshuffle decision again

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AFTER his last visit to New Delhi in September, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said he had discussed cabinet expansion with the Central leadership and was waiting for a go-ahead.

After the Election Commission announced elections in Bihar and bypolls to two seats in Karnataka, the decision was left in suspended animation. Now, with the results scheduled to be announced on November 10, cabinet expansion and reshuffle are back on the list of priorities for Yediyurappa. Though the CM has indicated that the discussion will take place only after the bypoll results, lobbying has reached a crescendo within the BJP.

"I am waiting for the bypoll results. We will take the approval over phone if possible. After that, I will visit New Delhi on November 11 and proceed with the expansion," he had said on Friday. He repeated his stance on Sunday. Meanwhile, ministerial berth aspirants are struggling to get an audience with Central leaders to present their case.

While newly-elected MLCs R Shankar and MTB Nagaraj are set to be inducted into the cabinet, nominated MLC H Vishwanath's fate is in a limbo.

After CT Ravi resigned as Kannada and Culture minister, MLC and Vokkaliga face CP Yogeshwar is now lobbying for the post. If RR Nagar candidate Munirathna manages a victory, he too is set to be inducted into the cabinet. Interestingly, while those who joined the BJP from other parties are waiting for the CM to probe the topic on expansion, senior leaders of state BJP, including Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, Arvind Limbavali, Sunil Kumar, Umesh Katti etc, are said to be trying to lobby with the state party leaders, like organising secretary Arun Kumar and high command directly. Hiriyur MLA Poornima Srinivas is hopeful of replacing Shashikala Jolle in the cabinet if BJP wins in Sira.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa launches Jnana Deevige in Shivamoggga on Sunday

We'll win both bypoll seats for sure: BSY

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday expressed confidence that his party will win both RR Nagar and Sira Assembly bypolls by huge margins. "We will win RR Nagar by (a margin of) 35,000-40,000 votes. In Sira also, we will win by about 20,000-25,000 votes. I am not saying it today, I had said it ahead of the elections and on the polling day," he said. "When Yediyurappa says something, it is only after thinking over it multiple times and understanding the public opinion. We will win both seats by a huge margin for sure," he added.

Cong's internal bickering helped BJP in bypolls: Kateel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Tumakuru

BJP state unit president Nalin Kumar Kateel on Sunday said that the Congress party's internal bickering will come out in the open once the results of Sira and RR Nagar Assembly bypolls come out in favour of the BJP.

"The fissure within Congress is one of the factors that has come to the aid of BJP candidates. Opposition Leader Siddaramaiah, instead of helping the party candidate T B Jaychandra in Sira, focused on defeating the Congress nominee in RR Nagar," he said at the BJP Prashikshan Samavesha, which was held for the party cadre from ten districts in three divisions.

Nalin Kumar Kateel

"Also, KPCC president D K Shivakumar wanted Jayachandra defeated in Sira," he alleged. He claimed that the BJP will win Sira by over 25,000 votes and RR Nagar by 40,000 votes. "As his defeat is imminent, Jayachandra expressed doubts over electronic voting machines," he added.

WINDS OF CHANGE

Saffron spreads in Siddaramaiah's home turf, Congress fortress

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

CHAMARAJNAGAR and Mysuru districts in the Old Mysore region, which have traditionally been a fortress of the Congress, is slowly but surely witnessing a change in the hinterland.

BJP MP and senior Dalit leader V Srinvasa Parasad has been working overtime to bring the urban civic bodies in his Lok Sabha constituency under the BJP fold and has already tasted success in Kollegal, Chamarajnagar and Hanur municipalities with some deft manoeuvring.

In what would have seemed unthinkable, the BJP aligned with the Congress to wrest power in the Hanur Town Panchayat election while keeping the JDS at bay. This move has been played out at a time when the gram panchayat polls are round the corner. Although, the Congress and the BJP had fought tooth and nail in the Lok Sabha election, Prasad managed to co-opt Congress MLA R Narendra, with eight members on his side, and keep the JD(S), with six members, out. In the bargain, the Congress got the vice-president's post.

Preparations underway for counting of votes in Sira at Govt Polytechnic College

In the Kollegal City Municipal Council, Srinivasa Prasad managed to win over MLA N Mahesh's faction of BSP councillors and an Independent. With 14 party candidates and his own vote, the BJP managed the numbers on its side against Congress and SDPI, which together have 12 members. This came as a major setback to sitting Congress MLA Puttaranga Shetty.

The BJP won comfortably on its own and came back to power in the Nanjangud City Municipal Council and the Gundlupet Town Municipal Council. With the party now in power in about six civic bodies in the district, the Congress is keeping its folk together in Yalandur, T Narasipur and H D Kote to stop BJP from further concerning the political space.

On BJP and Congress coming together, Srinivasa Prasad said that it is a local arrangement in the interest of development. However, former Congress MP R Druvanarayan termed it opporunistic and also criticised the BSP for having joined hands to share power.

He said that the BJP and BSP have no morals and they are exposed in the eyes of the people. He also felt that this will not work for long. Asked about Congress joining hands with BJP to share power in Hanur, he termed it unfortunate.

The BJP and BSP have no morals and they have been exposed. Their alliance will not work for long. Congress joining hands with BJP to share power in Hanur is unfortunate

R Druvanarayan, former Congress MP

Man's body found

The body of a man stabbed to death, was found near Sumanahalli bridge in Kamakshipalya police station limits, on Sunday. The deceased Manjunath (30), was a resident of Banashankari 1st stage

Villagers of Painganadu in Tamil Nadu burst firecrackers to celebrate the victory of US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on Sunday | EXPRESS

Kolams, crackers for 'daughter of the village'

Celebrations in TN village, where US veep-elect Harris's grandfather hails from

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Thanjavur/Chennai

DEEPAVALI was celebrated a week earlier by residents of Thulasendrapuram Painganadu village in Tiruvarur district as they burst crackers, distributed sweets and drew kolams to celebrate the victory of their most-famous American connection, Kamala Harris.

The US Vice-President elect's maternal grandfather, PV Gopalan's quaint village has now become a prominent spot in the global map. Though Gopalan left the village in the 1930s along with his family, Oakland-born Harris continues to be the daughter of this village, as much as her Chennai-born mother, Shyamala Gopalan.

"We have no words to describe our feelings", says an excited J Sudhakar, the 'Naattamai (traditional head) of the village and the president of the Mannargudi Green city rotary club. Villagers held placards with the photo of Kamala Harris and distributed sweets. "We wish the daughter of our village (Kamala Harris) to visit us," says Sudhakar. The villagers also drew colourful Kolams in front of their houses wishing Harris.

"Our prayers to the village deity, Sri Dharma Sastha Ayyanar, were answered," says Sudhakar, recalling the special prayers held in the temple.

The Ayyanar temple is said to be the 'Kula Devivam' (family deity) of Gopalan. On Sunday morning also, special prayers, including ablutions to the presiding deity of the temple, were held.

Meanwhile, R Kamaraj, the Food Minister of the state who is from Mannargudi, visited the village and participated in the special pooja at the temple. Poondi S Kalaivanan, the Tiruvarur District secretary of DMK, also visited the village and offered prayers at the temple. He later distributed sweets to the public.

In Chennai, Gopalan Balachandran, Harris' maternal uncle, said he, along with his family members, will be flying down to the United States for the swearing-in ceremony. "We went for her swearing-in ceremony as attorney-general and that was where I met and had a chat with Joe Biden. We cannot miss any of her swearing-in ceremonies and look forward to being there this time too," he said.

EXPRESS READ

Police shoot at, nab accused in extortion case

Bengaluru: Banasawadi police opened fire at an accused in an extortion case after he allegedly attacked the police in HRBR Layout on Sunday afternoon. The accused, Arbaz Khan (22), a resident of Pillanna Garden, has been shifted to a hospital. Police said that two miscreants had extorted a bakery owner in Kacharakanahalli on October 22 and a case was registered. Based on CCTV footage, the accused were identified as Khan and his associate Santosh. Khan was arrested from Tamil Nadu on Saturday and was brought to the city. **ENS**

Shattered dreams? Retd BU prof commits suicide

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 64-year-old retired head of the department and dean at Bangalore University, Prof N S Ashok Kumar, allegedly hanged himself at his residence in BTM Layout on Sunday.

Although he wrote a suicide note, he did not blame anyone for his death. However, his former colleagues reportedly said he had nurtured the ambition of becoming a vice-chancellor. On Saturday, the first vice-chancellors for four cluster universities were selected.

The police are investigating the possible link of the suicide to these appointments, which are made for four years or till the appointee turns 67, whichever is earlier. This may have seemed a last chance for him to become a VC, driving him to take the extreme step, the police said.

The police are also probing details of him running into disciplinary action when he was the registrar (evaluation) at Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences a few years ago after he exposed an alleged copying scam.

If you are having suicidal thoughts or are in emotional distress, help is available.

You can get in touch with the SAHAI helpline at 080-25497777 which is open from Monday to Saturday from 10 am to 10pm and 104 Arogya Sahayavani which is available 24/7.

A senior police officer from Mico Layout police station said Prof Ashok Kumar, a resident of KAS Layout in BTM Layout, was found hanging by his wife Radhika at 6 am on Sunday. Mico Layout police shifted the body for postmortem to St John's Hospital.

Prof Kumar lived with his wife and two sons. Prof Kumar's family said that he had no family or health-related issues.

Kumar retired two years ago after serving as head of the department of Mass Communication at Bangalore University's Jnanabharathi Campus, before which he was Dean for the varsity's electronic media department.

The last rites were conducted at Wilson Garden crematorium and his eyes were donated to an eye bank as per his wish.

Ambulance driver punctures patient's trachea

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

SANISH Mahi, a fitness trainer who was working with one of the city's top fitness centres Chisel, is a broken man today.

About 10 days ago, he was returning home after a training session with his team at Cubbon Park when he suddenly suffered a seizure and fell off his bike near the PF main office close to the Residency Road traffic junction. He now remembers being struck by violent spasms, falling on the road and losing consciousness. When he opened his eyes, he was at St John's Hospital.

Sanish was badly injured with a deep wound around his jaw that needed a surgery. Added to this, the driver of the ambulance, before ferrying him to the hospital, had used a rusty instrument and punctured Sanish's oral cavity.

A parent of one of Sanish's students, who wished not to be identified, said, "The untrained ambulance driver has caused a pharyngeal injury to Sanish, trying to push a sharp object into his throat or buccal cavity. The internal damage is a cause of concern. It is important to locate the ambulance driver."

At the hospital, Sanish recalled that his motorbike was on the road and he contacted his students over phone, requesting them to trace the two-wheeler. But they got back to him saying that the bike was not on the road or on footpath. Sanish had also lost his wallet.

A battered Sanish got himself discharged and started searching for the bike. He approached the Ashoknagar station, while his friends contacted Cubbon Park police, who told them that the spot where Sanish fell came under the jurisdiction of Sampangi Ram Nagar police station. The police kept directing him to different police stations. The result is that Sanish, who is from Kerala and not fluent in Kannada, is still hunting for his two-wheeler.

The student's parent said, "The police can use the CCTV footage to trace those who have taken the bike."

NITI Ayog CEO Amitabh Kant and his family visit Hampi on Sunday | SHIVASHANKAR BANAGAR

Hampi magical, amazing, says Kant

Hubballi: It's magical, it's majestic, it's amazing, these were the words of NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant after he visited world heritage site Hampi on Saturday and Sunday. "Two days are not enough to cover this beautiful place. I should have taken leave for a few more days to see this site," he said after taking visiting the site with his family members. The CEO was mesmerised by the ancient stone chariot and magical musical pillars at the Vijaya Vittala Temple complex. Officials from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (HWHAMA) accompanied Kant. **ENS**

Gajani Kagga threatened since 90s

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PROF. V N Nayak, Department of Marine Biology, Karnataka University, Karwar, said this paddy grows in areas where sea water inundates the land. The crop has been facing threat since 1990s, when dams were built, and the land was converted for brackish water (Tiger) Prawn cultivation. "The rice is a little bigger, rich in protein, has high fibre content, is a rich source of energy and healthy for diabetics. It is a favoured food of locals," Nayak said.

Prakash Mesta, KBB member, said that of the 1.20 lakh rice varieties documented by Britshers, only 20,000-25,000 local varieties remain and Kagga is one of them. "Of the total 3,000 acres in Gajani land, only 5% has Kagga paddy left. The uniqueness of the crop is that it does not need fertilisers and the crop survives even if it's submerged in water for a week," he said.

Dr Vivek Murthy had slammed Trump

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE new President will assume office by January 21, and all the planning is being done in the transition period, Dr Vivek Murthy's father, Dr H N Narasimha Murthy, said.

On whether Dr Vivek may be given more responsibilities in the new Biden dispensation, Narasimha Murthy said that the first task will be to fight the pandemic. "It is up to the President to grant him a bigger role," he added.

Narasimha Murthy said, "We deeply appreciated all the prayers for Vivek's success and his family when he was appointed as Surgeon General by then President Obama. I am happy that he was able to do some good work for the country." In his television address during the run-up to the presidential election, Dr Vivek had strongly criticised President Donald Trump's handling of the Covid-19 situation.

Back in Hallegere, Vivek's family members are thrilled with Biden's victory.

Former IAS officer Senthil to join Congress in Chennai today

VINCENT D'SOUZA @Mangaluru

MORE than a year after he quit the civil services, former IAS officer of Karnataka cadre, S Sasikanth Senthil, will join the Congress party in Chennai on Monday.

Senthil told *TNSE* that his priority will be to organise the grand old party in Tamil Nadu in view of the 2021 assembly elections and ensure the victory of DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance and then tour across the country to unite forces against the current dispensation. However, he ruled out the possibility taking a plunge into electoral politics in the upcoming election.

Senthil, who had quit IAS in September 2019 alleging a "threat to democracy", had actively participated in the citizens movement against the CAA, NPR and the NRC.

Two months ago, when former IPS officer Annamalai joined the BJP, Senthil had told *TNSE* that he does not have faith in political parties as none are ready to take up people's causes in a big way and it is impossible for political parties to fight an autocratic state. But, on Sunday, he tweeted, "Congress party is aware of the challenges that the 21st century poses for India and the world, and is ready to find solutions alongside the people of the country."

"I realised that the solution has to be political and it cannot be just street fight. It was brewing for some time that I should take up a role and unify everyone," he told *TNSE*.

On choosing a party which is not a major force to reckon with in the southern state, he said, "If I had focused on my own political career, I would have chosen Dravidian parties and I am also slightly from that ideological background. But it's an all-India fight and not only about Tamil Nadu," said Senthil.

He played down the dissent by actor-turned-politician Kushboo and others against the party's leadership stating that people will come and go, but ideology should matter. "Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi had a chance to become PM, but they never took it. I feel that the Congress has the best equation and ideology that I stand for. I also believe that the Congress will give me that space to share my expression of dissent. I have always been an activist. Even when I was in the civil services, that part of me was always there and it will remain," he said.

I realised that the solution has to be political and it cannot be just street fight. It was brewing for some time that I should take up a role and unify everyone

S Sasikanth Senthil, former IAS officer

'World can breathe easy'

Referring to Joe Biden's election as United States' political victory and that the world can breathe easy now, the 41-year-old said India should also try to get a political solution in 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client by name **Sri. M. Rangegowda** S/o Late Munishamappa Chikkappaiah intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from the original vendor **Smt. M. Saraswathi** W/o. C. Bala Narayanaswamy Resident of Kodagurki Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, anybody having right, title claim demand whatsoever rights in accordance with the law in respect of the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit their objections in writing together with documentary proof to establish their claim, this should reach to undersigned within **7 days** from the date of this notice, if any objections claims are not received in this stipulated time, it shall be presumed that no one has got any right, title claim upon the Schedule Property and my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that part and parcel of the vacant site Property bearing Municipal Katha No.924/16 (Nine Hundred Twenty Four sub sixteen), New Municipal Katha No. 3230/924/16 Measuring to an extent of **East-West: 30 ft and North-South:40 ft bearing Site No.16** & bounded on:

East by : Site No.19; **West by** : 25 ft Road; **North by** : 30 ft Road; **South by** : Site No.17;

Sri. M.B. Munivenkategowda
Advocate,
No.30, Ground Floor, Kanaka Mandira, 5th Main Road, Gandhinagara, Bangalore-560 009 Mobile: 9341132894

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my client has agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner: Sri B.N. Ramakrishna S/o late T.S. Nagaraj Setty, residing at No. 32/13, Outhouse, West Anjaneya Temple Street, Next to Radhakrishna Convention Hall, Basavanagudi, Bangalore.

Apart from the aforesaid owner, if any other person/s, have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid Owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.18/1-2 PID No.46-5-18/1-2, measuring East to West 30 ft and North to South 27 ft, with building thereon, situated at 3rd Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : 2nd Cross, Chamarajpet
West by : House belonging to G. Veerabhadrappa
North by : Property bearing No.18/1-1
South by : Conservancy

Sd/- **Goutam Chand S.F**
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Properties)

Whereas the Authorised Officer of **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited** under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amounts mentioned against their respective name together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notices, along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realization.

S. No.	Loan Account No./ Selling Bank Name / Borrower Name	Date of 13(2) Notice & Amount Outstanding as per Notice	Date & Type of Possession
1	LAN - LSBGL05117-180001826 / Indostar Capital Fianace Ltd. / Mr. Ganesh C. / Mrs. Kanchana C/	Rs.1,69,50,174/- as on 13.06.2019	05.11.2020 Symbolic

Description of Property: All that Piece and Parcel of the Property Bearing Muncipal Site No.08, BBMP ward No.172, (Old Ward No.65), B.B.M.P PID No. 65-272-8, (Old No. 103, 60 Feet Road, Jai Bheema Nagar Bangalore) Madivala Village, Beguru Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. Measuring East to West 25 Feet and North to South 86 Feet. In all measuring 2150 Sq. ft. with construction thereon having Ground, First and Second floor thereon and bounded on the: East by: Property of Yarrappanavvar, **West by:** 4.5 ft. passage and Kumar's Property, **North by:** 60 Ft. Road, **South by:** Private Property.

2	LAN- HL0113/HBAH00004205 / Magma Fincorp Ltd. / Mr. Aejaz Ali. / Mrs. Fathima Aejaz.	Rs.19,30,838.91 as on 18.05.2018	05.11.2020 Symbolic

Description of Property: All that Piece and Parcel of the Immovable property bearing Corporation New No.30/3, (formerly part and parcel of the premises New No.30, Old No.17-A), situated at Aga Abdulla Street, Richmond Town, Civil Station, Bangalore, BMP ward No.76, (PID. No.76-54-30/3) in all measuring 693 Sq.Ft. **and bounded on the East by:** Public Road known as Aga Abdulla Street; **West by:** Private property No.30/2, Aga Abdulla street belonging to Aga Mohammed Ibrahim Shirazi, **North by:** Premises New No. 31, Old No.17, Aga Abdulla Street belonging to Aga Ali Askar Shia Private Wakf; **and South by:** Entrance passage of private property No.30/2 Aga Abdulla street belonging to Aga Mohammed Ibrahim Shirazi.

3	LAN - LSBGL00216-170000608 / Indostar Capital Finance Ltd. / Mrs. R.Bhuvaneshwari / Mrs. R.Saroja / M/s SHN Impex / Mr. Jai Shankar K.	Rs. 1,43,81,537/- as on 30.11.2018	05.11.2020 Symbolic

Description of Property: Flat bearing No. 102, Katha No. 34/1 in Ground Floor, (3BHK) of premises, **'Balaji Enclave-3'**, with uppertenances, constructed in the immovable property bearing Municipal No.34, PID No.100-760-34, MLA Layout, RMV 2nd Stage, Sanjaynagar 4th Block, Bangalore-560094 measuring East to West 80 feet and North to South 50 feet totally measuring 4000 Sq.Ft. and bounded on the East by Site No. 43; **West by:** Road; **North by:** Site No.33 **and South by:** Site No. 35. Flat having measuring Super built up area of 1734 Sq. Ft. with Vitrified Tiles Flooring and with 500 Sq. Ft. of proportionate undivided share right and interest of land at above said property with one car parking at Stilt Floor marked as 102, with all appurtences, easements of necessities, usage of staircase, Lift, common portions, common passage for ingress and with rights and liabilities and restrictions with common water supply, common pump and electricity facility with separate meter and Flat **being bounded on the East by:** Site No. 43, **West by:** Flat No.101, **North by:** Marginal Land **and South by:** Site No.35.

4	LAN - HL0113/GBGG00002523 / Magma Housing Finance Ltd. / Mr. Mini Sharfuddin Riyaz Ahmed / Mubeen Taj	Rs. 1,05,32,073.09 as on 09.09.2019	05.11.2020 Symbolic

Description of Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Corporation No 3/1, Situated at Munshi Shaik Ahmed Lane, (P.V.R. Road Cross), Ward No 30, Bangalore, measuring 17.6x29 feet, Total measuring 510.4 Sq.ft. **and bounded on the East by:** Private Property; **West by:** Portion of property allotted to Mrs. Fathima Khatoon; **North by:** Property belongs to Shakeerunnisa **and South by:** Common passage and portion of property allotted to the share of Mrs. Zarina Khatoon.

The borrowers mentioned herein above having failed to repay the amounts, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and to the public in general that the Authorized Officer of **Arcil** has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the properties/ Secured Assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned above. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured Assets will be subject to the charge of **Arcil** and interest thereon. The borrwers/ mortgagors/ guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 09.11.2020

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd.

ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD.
Registered Office: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West), Mumbai-400028. Tel: +91 2266581300. **www.arcil.co.in, CIN-U65999MH2002PLC134884**
Branch Address: Unit No. 305, 3rd Floor Kedia Arcade, # 92, Infantry Road Bangalore-560001. Tel: 080-25598054/55.

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Retail Assets Central Processing Centre-II, Koramangala
No.12, 7th Main, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034
Tel:080-25943803, Fax:080-25943805
Email: maintracpc2.ban@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (No. 3 of 2002) issued a Demand Notice dated **06.03.2020** calling upon the borrowers: **Smt. Aparna Gupta** W/o. Ashish Gupta and **Sri.Ashish Gupta** S/o. Goverdhan Dass Gupta to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.55,96,767/-** (Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Seven only) as on 06.03.2020 and interest & expenses there on within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on **06.11.2020.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of **Rs.58,95,720/-** (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twentyonly) as on 04.11.2020 and interest + expenses thereon.

The borrower's/ mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Apartment bearing No.B-1604 on 16th Floor having super built up area of about 1520 Sq.ft., along with One Car parking space in the Multistoried Residential Building known as **"SKYLARK ESTA"** constructed with vitrified flooring and RCC roof, standing in the joint names of Smt.Aparna Gupta and Sri.Ashish Gupta, with 513.18 sq.ft of undivided share, right, title and interest in the composite immovable property being the converted land totally measuring 2 acres 30 guntas comprised in (1). Sy.No.16/2, measuring 28 guntas assessed to Municipal taxes as Corporation No.334-16/2, New No.334, Hoodi, Bengaluru and (2). Sy.No.16/1, measuring 1 acre 20 guntas, (Now bifurcated as Nos 16/1-30 guntas and 16/6-30 Guntas) and Sy.No.13/4, measuring 22 guntas both clubbed and assessed to Municipal taxes as corporation No.335-13/4, 16/1 New No.335, Hoodi, Bengaluru, both comprised as one composite property and boundaries of the composite property bearing Corporation Nos.334 and 335, situated at Hoodi Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk presently falling within the jurisdiction of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru and bounded on East by: Remaining Portion of Sy.No.13/4, 16/2 and property in Sy.No.16/3, West by: Common Road, property of Sagar Steel Factory and Private property, North by: Hoodi Main Road and portion of Sy.No.13/4 and South by: Private Property.

Place : Bengaluru
Date: 06.11.2020

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank Of India
RACPC II Koramangala, Bengaluru

IN THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-57)
Ex. Petition No.226/2020 in O.S. No.1828/2019

Between : Mr. Raghavendra Setty. S/o. Mr. Krishnaiah Setty, Aged about 46 years, Residing at No. 800, 17th E Main Road, 5th Block, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore-560010.

Reptd by its SPA Holder Mr. Parthasarathi G. S. S/o Subramanyam R., aged about 54 years, residing at # F-3, 1st Cross, Leeway Manar, Nrupathunga Nagar, J P Nagar, 7th Phase, Bangalore -560078. ...**DECREE HOLDER**

And : M/s MorgenAll Holding LLP, A Limited Liability Partnership, Villa No. 138, Ferns Residency, K. Narayanapura Village off Hennur Road, Bangalore-560077. ...**JUDGMENT DEBTOR**

SUMMONS TO JUDGMENT DEBTOR

WHEREAS. the above named Decree Holder, Reptd by its SPA Holder has instituted the above Execution Petition against the Judgment Debtor for the relief of Ejectment, directing the Judgment Debtor to quit, vacate and deliver the vacant physical possession of the Suit schedule property to the Decree Holder, which is morefully described hereunder.

Take notice that, you the Judgment Debtor in the above case is hereby ordered by this Hon'ble Court to appear before the court (CCH.No. 57) either in person or through an Advocate duly instructed by you **on 05-12-2020, at 11-00 am.** to file objections if any from your side in the above case filed by the above named Decree Holder, failing which you will be placed exparte and without further notice, the same will be determined on merits in your absence in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential Villa No. 138, Ferns Residency, K.Narayanapura Village, Off Hennur Road, Bangalore-560 077, with super built up area of 4500 Sq. Ft., consisting of five bedrooms, study room, living and dining room, family lounge, kitchen, servant room alongwith inbuilt fittings and fixtures, and bounded on :

East by : Private Road, **West by :** Plot No. 146, **North by :** Plot No. 137 and 147, **South by :** Plot No. 139.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court, on this the 6th November, 2020.

By order of the court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

PRADEEP KUMAR.J,
Advocate for Decree Holder
M/s. DNS Law House,
No.36, 3rd Floor, 2nd Cross,
Kumara Park West, Bangalore-560020
Ph. No. 080-49191360/61

EDITORIAL

"It will be up to not just Joe and Kamala, but each of us (Americans), to do our part—to reach out beyond our comfort zone, to listen to others, to lower the temperature

Barack Obama

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

AMERICA REDISCOVERS ROOTS IN DEMOCRACY & MULTICULTURALISM

Every election creates a specific kind of history, and some create history on a grand scale. But there are only a few that do both, mixed with a vision of universal justice: This becomes a kind of poetic history. The annals of human affairs tell us these ecstatic moments often fail to live up to their true potential, or become their own perversions—or indeed are actively subverted. It is often only in that brief flash of ecstasy that their real light shines, before the dull workings of power begin their routine operations. And yet, the election of the 46th President of the United States joins such an elect list.

For an America that seemed so very divided, and for a world watching with bated breath, it's not what a Biden presidency may achieve in the coming years that is of salience (and hence cannot be judged on that): It has already achieved something remarkable by merely coming to be! It brought tears of relief and cheers of joy across states—from Delaware, which has got its first President-elect, to DC. That infectious expression of victory, a hope of return to 'decency' and 'empathy' on the streets, was difficult not to respond to. A recalcitrant Donald Trump, who has expectedly refused to show signs of grace in defeat, seems almost to heighten the sense of a filmic ending. Sharing the stage with Joe Biden as Vice President will be the first woman in that office—a coloured woman, a second-generation immigrant who traces part of her roots to Chennai … many more hues of poetic justice.

The Biden-Harris team also won with the largest popular vote in recent times. More than the Bushs, Clinton or Obama. As America rediscovers its roots in democracy and multiculturalism, as the once-youngest Senator becomes the oldest President of America, India will have occasion to find strands of policy continuity.

EXISTENTIAL DILEMMA THAT STARES AT SIVAKASI

The pandemic-year festivities have come with their own challenges. Apart from the crowding of shopping centres in blatant violation of social distancing norms, there is the burning issue of the use of firecrackers. While health experts have clearly pointed out how pollution due to crackers can make people more susceptible to Covid, a complete ban will mean loss of livelihood for over eight lakh people engaged in the fireworks industry concentrated in Sivakasi, a town in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district. The crackers units that contribute more than 90% of the country's demand have already been hit hard by repeated lockdowns. The ban by one state after another may only create a domino effect, dragging the workforce into a deeper morass. The sale of crackers in Rajasthan during festivities and the wedding season that follows crosses ₹400 crore every year. This is roughly 12% of the market share of the fireworks manufacturers. Though Odisha's contribution of around 2% may sound small, the rippling effect, if more states follow suit, can be depressing for Sivakasi.

The clamour for revoking the ban has been growing louder among leading political parties in Tamil Nadu. Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami has requested his Rajasthan and Odisha counterparts to allow firecrackers in their respective states. Tamil Nadu has been claiming at all forums that most of its products are certified "green crackers" because the raw materials it uses would reduce emissions by 30 to 35% and emit 125 decibels as compared to 160. Karnataka, which had originally banned cracker use, has now allowed the sale of such green crackers. But one cannot brush aside the deadly effect of mercury, lead and cadmium smoke on vulnerable lungs and the fragile planet.

Due to Covid, Sivakasi is caught between infection and starvation. The virus has forced mankind to make adjustments for the new normal. Going forward, Sivakasi ought to shift its entire product line to green crackers instead of part-producing them, so as to be on the right side of the CSIR's directives and the Supreme Court's verdict.

Trump has been a friend of India for four years. Yet, he had us on tenterhooks too with his non-traditional leadership. What would a Biden presidency mean for our relationship?

ON INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS IN THE BIDEN-KAMALA ERA

LT GEN SYED ATA HASNAIN (RETD)

Former Commander, Srinagar-based 15 Corps. Now Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir

AMIT BANDRE

Let me commence by stating what should have been said at the end but being so significant, it needs to be said in the beginning. It is about an Indian television show I was watching while the battle of counting for the US Presidential election was going on in Arizona and Nevada, the two famous desert and cowboy states of America. The anchor asked five well-known members of the panel whether they would sleep more comfortably with Trump in the chair of President or Biden. Without any hesitation, all five responded in favour of Biden, summing up the reality of Trump's relations with India. There is no doubt that Trump's presidency has seen a transformational progression of Indo-US relations, but it is the unpredictability and the causticity that obviously does not appeal to conventional observers. With a Biden presidency looming ahead, what would it be like for India and Indo-US relations?

President Donald Trump has been a friend of India for four years, have no doubts about that. Yet, he had India on tenterhooks too with his non-traditional leadership. Biden's ascent would mean the restoration of traditional American leadership to the White House. Many a President has been errant but none could ever be branded as erratic, whimsical and unpredictable in behaviour as Donald Trump, his favourable disposition to India notwithstanding. To keep America at 'number one', Americans have to adopt 'World First' and not 'America First'. That is what US Presidents have done without faltering since 1945. Biden is expected to return the Presidency to the old value system that has always been about promotion of democracy, stability, human rights, cultural and religious freedoms, plurality and inclusiveness, though many of these may also not be abundantly found in the America of the past or the present. America won the Cold War on the back of pursuit of these values. As the world's leading power, it will probably see its leadership returning to more traditional ways.

Trump's relationship with India was definitely of a high order and he took the strategic partnership with shared concerns to a new high. In fact, I branded the recent 2+2 Dialogue in Delhi as a transformational event 15 years after the initiation of the Framework Agreement of 2005. This progression of the relationship was commenced by the Republicans and nurtured by the Democrats. As such, there appears little scope for change, especially with an enhanced threat from China. It was the Obama doctrine that aimed to take the focus of America to the Indo-Pacific by adopting what was called the 'Pivot to Asia' or 'Rebalancing'. With the drawdown of focus in the Middle East and a near-total withdrawal from Afghanistan on the cards, Trump's legacy is also a hand-me-down from Obama that facilitates America's concentration on the Indo-Pacific; nothing is needed to be changed in this and Biden should have no hesitation to relate to India and the current threats in Ladakh. In fact, he has spoken on this during his campaign. The transformational relationship with India is likely to be actively pursued by Joe Biden with no misgivings about providing India modern technologies and weapon systems such as armed drones for India's Armed Forces. As our largest trading partner, the US would only like to see a healthy return to trade with minimum barriers to support the growth of both economies that have suffered due to the pandemic.

India and Indians are primarily skeptical about J&K and Pakistan. Biden and perhaps more his running mate Kamala Harris have been often referring to Article 370 and rights of the people of Kashmir being infringed. Biden himself has commented upon CAA and NRC. Observers point to Biden being less supportive of India on Kashmir. Two things need to be pointed out. First, none of these utterances were in the policy mode, they were just personal observations. The outlook of a candidate or his running mate before polls does not necessarily become policy as close advisers, academic experts and others temper that opinion once in office. Biden has been in power with Obama and was never known to have anything against Indian handling of Kashmir. As one of the oldest sufferers of transnational terror, India can internationally hold its own on its J&K policy, although early engagement with the new administration and better attention towards narrative control is what India will have to work upon. An early informal brief to the so-called 'Samosa Caucus', the group of Indian-origin Congressmen—all Democrats—needs to be done. This caucus must be urged and rationally convinced on the Indian narratives on Kashmir.

> Biden and his running mate have referred to Article 370. Their outlook before polls does not necessarily become policy as close advisers, academic experts and others temper that opinion once in office

On Pakistan, the US has its compulsions. Even Trump would have preferred to send Pakistan packing, but he knew that the Afghanistan policy could not be played out without its support. Biden is unlikely to be very sympathetic towards a Pakistan already sold out to China, although he would aim to get it back. He could follow the Trump model of dealing with Pakistan virtually through Saudi Arabia and convey the no uncertain US disapproval of the China card. A humanitarian policy oriented to bail out Pakistan's economy should not be mistaken as a pro-Pakistan policy. Preventing Pakistan from imploding may well be a service the US would compulsorily have to perform, Trump or Biden notwithstanding.

Although nothing will change overnight and Biden is no weak-kneed leader, some of the areas where early decisions may be taken are in institutional support and leadership that has traditionally been an American convention. Rejoining WHO, UNESCO, Paris Climate Agreement and Global Compact for Migration could be on the priority list to accord America a leadership role again. There are at least six other agreements and protocols that will need to be reviewed for re-entry. Among them is the Iran Nuclear Deal of July 2015. How this is renegotiated, if at all, will dictate Indian interests in the sanctions-hit Chabahar port and the purchase of Iran's oil and gas, which is always favourable to Indian interests.

On the social side, there are great expectations of return to the better days of US immigration policies. The Indian diaspora support to Biden and Kamala has been of a marked order and would progressively make a difference. Increase in quotas of H1B visas and percentage of Green Card allotment will mean lesser return of Indians to an India struggling with the jobs scenario. The other area of cooperation in current times is the management of the development and distribution of an anti-Covid vaccine. Herein lies great scope for India and the US to cooperate and create for the world a sizable capacity of vaccine. It is Biden's mature handling without unnecessary bias towards 'America First' in this domain that could set the course for an even more transformational relationship based upon cooperation in difficult times.

(atahasnain@gmail.com)

THE DISUNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SREERAM CHAULIA

Professor and Dean at the Jindal School of International Affairs

The hard-fought and bitterly disputed victory of former Vice President Joe Biden over President Donald Trump in the 2020 US election is not a closure of one chapter and the opening of a historic new one. Instead, it is a continuation of a long crisis of governance and cohesion that will constrain America's capacity to lead the world.

The pandemic and the resultant economic distress were the prime factors that undid Trump's re-election dream, especially by weaning away white working-class voters from him. Biden's narrow wins in blue-collar bastions of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, which Trump had carried in 2016, are attributable to job losses and the dire public health conditions.

Trump's sensational upset in 2016 was propelled by the widening class divide between have-nots and haves, which he spun into a narrative of 'us' common folks versus 'them' establishment elites. Biden's recapture of some working class votes now does not mean the class conflict has been peacefully resolved.

Income inequality in the US broke records under Trump's watch, with a 50-year-high Gini coefficient of 48.5 in 2018. Biden's vow to raise taxes on the super-rich appears to have appealed to some voters in Trump's base, particularly the so-called 'forgotten people'. Apparently, they remained forgotten under Trump and some among them decided to utilise the agency they had of a ballot to give Biden a chance.

Apart from class, race has always been a driver of American politics. It was no different in this election. Exit polls showed a whopping 87% of African-Americans voted for Biden, that too with a much higher turnout than in 2016. The pattern of Biden winning in suburban and big cities across the US owed in no small measure to the black vote. The extreme polarisation caused by Trump's defence of 'law and order' and the police, amid the mass mobilisation of 'Black Lives Matter', proved costly for the incumbent.

Even Hispanics, the other big minority constituency, proved decisive in Arizona and Wisconsin in favour of Biden. Latinos were on Trump's side in Florida due to the Cuba and Venezuela considerations, but they tipped the balance against him in other razor-thin margin states. The disproportionate burden of the coronavirus on people of colour in the US reflected in the anti-incumbency voting pattern.

Yet, in spite of all the above-mentioned reasons for Trump's loss, he managed to receive a popular vote of close to 48% to Biden's 50%. More than 70 million people still voted for Trump, giving the President a foundation to cry foul about alleged 'fraud' and 'cheating' by Democrats through mail-in ballots.

Trump's finger-pointing at the integrity of the electoral system will resonate with his die-hard followers for years to come. The cleavages of class and race that robbed Trump of a second term will be weaponised by right-wing populists to prevent any normalcy in the US. Since Biden failed to win in a landslide 'blue wave', and given the lingering shadow of accusations and lawsuits, the US is caught in the same downward spiral where almost half of society is unwilling to trust or believe the formal institutions of democracy and the ruling dispensation.

> With the US split into a sullen and insecure 'Trump nation' and an inchoate but hopeful 'anti-Trump nation', it cannot regain the status of a colossus striding the world. A once-extraordinary and energetic country has become ordinary and tired

As the iconic *Time* magazine summed up, Biden "will govern in Donald Trump's America", i.e. a US embroiled in tremendous segregation and tribalism. The phenomenon of 'single-minded communities', where almost all residents of one locality in a county voted for Biden, and almost all residents of the other locality voted for Trump, coupled with the lack of intermixing between these opposing camps, mean that the US is struggling to stay as one nation.

Biden's insistence that he will govern for all Americans, including those who voted against him, is idealistic. Just as Democrats refused to accept Trump's victory as legitimate in 2016 and kept on investigating him for alleged collusion with Russia, hardcore Republicans will keep tarnishing Biden's presidency as illegitimate by sowing doubts about murky mail-in ballots. With Republicans likely to retain the majority in the upper house of the US Congress, the Senate, the battle lines are drawn for a protracted spell of incompatible ideologies and agendas that could paralyse institutions and undermine governance.

How can a badly fractured America act vigorously in the world? The best-case scenario for US foreign policy to rebound and for American leadership to return was for a huge Joe Biden victory. Since that has not happened, there are serious question marks over a Biden presidency being able to restore the much-debated 'liberal international order' under US stewardship.

For sure, the multilateralist Biden will jettison Trump's 'America First' path, improve ties with Europe and enhance diplomatic coordination with allies and partners in Asia to counter China's expansionism and authoritarianism. Under Biden, the US will rejoin the Paris climate change agreement and shore up the multilateral trading system that Trump had reduced to life support. But due to the toxic divisions in domestic US politics, none of these classic American liberal foreign policy pursuits can be confidently and robustly implemented. The US ability to shape geopolitical and geo-economic outcomes around the world will keep withering due to the volatile domestic 'drag down' effect.

The great US scholar Hans Morgenthau included elements like 'national character' and 'national morale' as key ingredients determining the overall power of a nation in world affairs. With the US split into a sullen, insecure 'Trump nation' and an inchoate but hopeful 'anti-Trump nation', it cannot regain the status of a colossus striding the world.

A once-extraordinary and energetic country has become ordinary and tired. The coming decade, if not the whole century, will not be an American one even if Biden's soaring rhetoric will want us to believe otherwise.

(schaulia@jgu.edu.in)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Healing a divided nation

The long wait is over. Joe Biden's first and foremost task is to bring a sharply divided country together. India and particularly Chennai can take pride in Kamala Harris for becoming the first-ever woman vice president of her country.

C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam

New beginning for America

It's a new beginning for the US. Hearty congratulations to Biden and Harris. Defeat for Donald Trump will usher in a new dawn for Americans and bring an end to uncertainty. It is also a wake-up call for authoritarian forces everywhere.

Jishi R, Kollam

His attitude let him down

Trump's failure on the economic front, the pandemic that ripped through the country, withdrawal from the Paris agreement and above all his overzealous attitude let him down badly at the hustings because it made people think twice before voting.

K R Srinivasan, Secunderabad

Refusal to concede loss

How can the US President allege that votes cast through post are all invalid? Does he not know the election rules and procedures? Biden has been more diplomatic and hence won the polls.

Sathyam N, Tiruchanoor

Covid sealed his fate

Whatever legal steps Trump may be contemplating, that Biden is the next US president is a foregone conclusion. In Trump as President, India had a good friend. The unfortunate death of George Floyd at the hands of US police and the unexpected Covid crisis sealed his fate.

P Mangalachandran, Kannur

Will it affect ties with US?

Trump visited India in February in spite of the pandemic to gain the votes of American Indians and our PM also mostly danced to his tunes. Now can we still expect good ties with the US?

Rajakumar Arulanandham, Palayamkottai

Farewell, Nitish?

The exit polls indicate the exit of Nitish Kumar. The Bihar CM's charisma has been on the wane and people of the state may have voted for change. In all fairness to Nitish, he focused on development in a caste-ridden, lawless state and was successful in improving law and order. Bihar is sure to miss Nitish's leadership.

Hemanth Bhide, Mangaluru

Writing on the wall

It appears the writing is on the wall for Nitish. But the BJP is likely to retain its 2015 tally, with some polls predicting it could even make a few inroads.

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

Tourism in 2021

This is with reference to *Unlock travel* (Sunday magazine). It's early to predict what's in store for tourism in 2021 as the virus is still on the prowl. Domestic tourism in small groups operating with the 'new normal' requirements is likely to prevail over holidaying abroad.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

A lucrative business

Evangelical activities along with charity have become a lucrative business in India. Believers Church's routing of unaccounted money should be a wake-up call for all governments

Bijumon P N, Idukki

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **G S Vasu**

Resident Editor (Karnataka) : **Santwana Bhattacharya*** Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 56, No. 267 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893, Fax: 080-22866617. * Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Ashok Gehlot @ashokgehlot51
The PM should issue a white paper to inform people about the impact of demonetisation, GST and the coronavirus. People are worried about economy

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
Arnab's Goswami's case is complete collapse of governance and brazen misuse of state machinery to trample on freedom and liberty. Shameful

Omar Abdullah @OmarAbdullah
Sacking of NPP leader from his post is unfortunate. We have never said that we will meet only those who accept our opinion

Demonetisation helped reduce black money: PM

On note ban's 4th anniversary, Rahul Gandhi says the move destroyed the economy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

ON the fourth anniversary of demonetisation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said it helped reduce black money, increase tax compliance and formalisation and gave a boost to transparency.

However, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the move destroyed the economy much before coporona-induced lockdown.

On November 8, 2016, Prime Minister Modi had announced the decision to ban all currency notes of higher denomination of ₹500 and ₹1,000 from midnight.

Taking to Twitter, Prime Minister Modi listed the beneficial outcomes of demonetisation. "Demonetisation has helped reduce black money, increase tax compliance and formalisation and given a boost to transparency," he tweeted.

"These outcomes have been greatly beneficial towards national progress," Modi said on Twitter using the hashtag 'DeMolishingCorruption'.

Along with his tweet, the prime minister also shared a graphic on how demonetisation has ensured better tax compliance, improved tax and GDP ratio, made India a lesser cash based economy and gave a boost to national security.

Meanwhile, slamming the move, Rahul Gandhi alleged that it was aimed at helping a few of his 'crony capitalist friends'.

> **The outcomes of demonetisation have been greatly beneficial towards national progress**
>
> Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

In a video released as part of the party's online 'SpeakUpAgainstDeMoDisaster' campaign, Gandhi said, "The government says that the reason is Covid but if that is the reason, there is Covid in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world also. The reason is not Covid, the reason is 'Notebandi' and GST," Gandhi said.

"Four years ago Prime Minister Narendra Modi began an assault on the Indian economy. He hurt farmers, labourers and small shopkeepers. Manmohan Singhji said the economy will lose two per cent and that is what we saw," Gandhi said.

The PM had stated that it is a fight against black money, but it was not so, he said.

'Cost of lockdown in India wasn't justified'

Delay in enforcing a strict lockdown and a stimulus equal to 3 per cent of GDP would have helped lessen the economic impact of the pandemic, feels economist ***Abhijit Banerjee*** *who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2019 along with Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer. He was in conversation with* ***Prabhu Chawla****, Editorial Director, The New Indian Express, and author and journalist* ***Shankkar Aiyar*** *on TNIE's Expressions, a series of live webcasts with people who matter. Excerpts:*

How do you think the pandemic is being managed by the rest of the world?
The global situation is more mixed than it looks. On paper it looks dire. After being pretty flat for four-five months, it (epidemic) has exploded in western Europe and in the US, returning in a rather scary form. In terms of numbers, it (the second wave) is comparable with the first wave, but in terms of mortality, less serious.

Given the context of rising numbers in the US and Europe, the curve (of new infections) in India has dipped in the last few months. How does India look in the context of the second wave?
Many of the epidemiologists I have spoken to are all a little baffled (by the phenomenon). Especially because there were a bunch of large negative shocks — *Onam and Ganesh Chaturthi*. Given that, it is rather remarkable the (overall) numbers have gone down. One possibility was that it (increase in infections) was geographically quite localised. It also might be that we are close to the relevant level of herd immunity.

Was the economic cost of the lockdown justified?
The economic cost of the lockdown imposed in India was clearly not justified. We could have waited on the lockdown, by at least a month. If we could have stopped it (increase in infections), there would have been a good argument (for a strict lockdown). We could have organised the economy better (by delaying the lockdown). We could have told people a lockdown is coming – stock up, go home, get a ration card. In retrospect we know that if we waited a month, nothing terrible would have happened.

EXPRESS expressions — FEAR NONE. FAVOUR NONE

> **We could have told people a lockdown is coming – stock up, get a ration card. In retrospect we know that if we waited a month, nothing terrible would have happened**
>
> Abhijit Banerjee, Economist

In the next few months, we will probably have a stimulus somewhere towards the budget. What would be your suggestion be?
The idea of having a portable ration card is critical. Probably the portable ration card doesn't need to be matched by portable food, but by portable money. If I had to pick one priority, I would say in one year let's make the Aadhaar-based, bank-linked money transfer system work. This is a new pandemic, we can send people money. It would really make life easier. There are many people who have no (other) recourse (to income support.)

Talking about direct transfers, do you think that Indian economy's fundamentals are strong enough to have that kind of money to be transferred?
Yes, we could have afforded it. The US printed $3 trillion of (extra) money; the German central bank allowed Europe to print nearly a billion dollars (for direct transfers to people). If India had printed 3 per cent of its GDP and given it away, the economy would have been in better shape. It would have made a huge difference. Now, it's less true. The economy is cruising back towards more full employment. So, you print money now, you get more inflation.

At this stage, we do not need to print extra money?
I think we still do. There is still a demand deficit. I think it's still worth giving people extra money, maybe 1% of GDP.

8th round of border talks over; India, China agree to avoid misunderstanding

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE eight round of military level talks between India and China was held where the two sides agreed to avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation. The two sides also agreed to hold the next round of talks soon indicating that the November 6 talks remained inconclusive.

"Both sides agreed to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, ensure their frontline troops to exercise restraint and avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation."

Understanding

Both sides have agreed to earnestly implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries and ensure that their frontline troops to exercise restraint

" Both sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels, and, taking forward the discussions at this meeting, push for the settlement of other outstanding issues, so as to jointly maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas," MEA statement.

India and China have witnessed escalated tensions along the LAC since the June 15 violent face off in Galwan Valley in Ladakh.

Both sides have been in talks — diplomatically and militarily — since then in an attempt to defuse the tension. EAM S Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow on the sidelines of the SCO foreign ministers' meeting where the two leaders agreed on a five point mechanism for disengagement. China has seemed to leave the disengagement process mid way as it resorted to aggression on the south bank of the Pangong Tso even as talks were on.

President-elect Joe Biden and wife gesture to supporters in Wilmington | AP/PTI

India can expect closer ties on trade, security & climate under Biden

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

WITH Joe Biden emerging victorious in a closely contested US presidential poll and all eyes on him over the fate of India-US ties under his regime, we look at his role in the past in helping boost bilateral relations.

Biden has been a strong supporter of India and India-US partnership as a Senator between 1973 and 2008 and later as Vice President 2009-2016 in the Barack Obama administration.

Biden reiterated his vision for US-India partnership in his campaign document too. "We stand with India in facing threats in the region and on its borders. The world would be a safer place if the two countries came closer together," his campaign document read. Biden also called for expanding two-way trade and tackling big global challenges including climate change and global health security together with India.

As Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he consistently lent his support to several resolutions in support for India while in 2001 as the chairman of the panel, Biden wrote to then President George W Bush urging him to drop the US sanctions against India.

He was also instrument in getting the Senate's approval for the India-US Civil Nuclear agreement in 2008 and has sponsored several laws on countering terrorism.

Biden was also a critical ally for India in the Senate during the negotiation of the nuclear deal between Bush and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. He traveled to India with then Senators Chuck Hagel and John Kerry in early 2008, before the US Congress approved the nuclear deal with India. Biden, as vice-president, visited India from July 22-25, 2013 on an official visit where he called on then President Pranab Mukherjee, met then Vice President Hamid Ansari and visited Gandhi Smriti Museum in Delhi. He also visited Mumbai to meet business leaders at a round table and delivered a policy speech at the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Biden's lift for India

In 2016, when Biden was VP, India was named as a major defence partner which allowed New Delhi to be treated at par with other close partners of Washington

As vice-president, Biden also hosted a lunch for Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the US in 2014 and also chaired the joint session of the US Congress which Modi addressed.

It was during the Obama administration in 2016, when Biden was vice-president that the US named India as a major defence partner which allowed New Delhi to be treated at par with other close partners of Washington in terms of access to advance and sensitive military technologies.

One-third of judges' posts in high courts are lying vacant

KANU SARDA @New Delhi

WITH the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, India's judicial system struggled and adapted itself to meet the challenges of functioning under the 'new normal'. But in the process, the task of filling up vacancies, especially at the high courts, seems to have taken a back seat.

Since May, the number of vacant posts of judges across various high courts has gone up which, in turn, could have a direct bearing on pendency of cases. More than one-third of 1,079 sanctioned posts of judges in the 25 high courts of India are currently vacant.

The SC has a sanctioned strength of 34 judges out of which four posts are currently vacant. The SC Collegium responsible for making recommendations for filling these vacancies has not made any since current CJI SA Bobde took charge in November 2019.

In the HCs, there had been a marginal decline in overall vacancies since Bobde assumed charge. But after the Covid-induced lockdown, vacancies started increasing again. In January last year, there were 400 vacancies in various high courts. The number saw a decline in May 2019 but rose to 420 vacancies in November last year. It again recorded a decline in May this year, when there were 380 vacancies, but went upwards thereafter and is currently 404.

The vacancy is increasing as HCs are apparently not sending names to the Collegium for appointment timely. The delay is causing immense pressure on the justice delivery system.

At least 12 HCs are functioning with less than two-thirds of their sanctioned strength. Of these, three high courts – Patna, Rajasthan and Calcutta – have more than 50% vacancy. The Patna HC is at the top of the list with 56.6% vacancy.

A look at the data from January 2019 till October 2020 indicates that the vacancies in high courts start increasing when the tenure of the Chief Justice of India reaches its end as the rate of appointment of judges slows down.

POSTS TO FILL

High Court	Sanctioned strength	Vacancy
Patna	53	30
Rajasthan	50	26
Calcutta	72	37
Gujarat	52	25
Delhi	60	28
Andhra Pradesh	37	17
Telangana	24	10
Allahabad	160	60
Chhattisgarh	22	8

FASTags must for 4-wheelers from January 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to make FASTags mandatory for all four-wheelers from January 1, 2021. The ministry has issued a notification in this regard. Earlier, the ministry had made it mandatory for all four-wheeler manufacturers and dealers to install FASTags and registration of vehicles. This move had come into effect from December 1, 2017.

The ministry, with an aim to boost the compliance of the rule, has made it mandatory for vehicle owners from April 1, 2021 to have FASTags even while availing third party insurance. In case of commercial vehicles, which need fitness certificates for operation, FASTags have been made mandatory for their issuance.

According to the government, the installation of FASTags will result in the smooth and streamlined movement of vehicles at toll booths. FASTags are electronic chips which can be recharged and are stuck to the windshield of the vehicle. The vehicle can pass through the toll plaza without stopping as the toll would be deducted electronically with the help of the FASTags.

IMPACT ON INDIA

Year	Indian students in the US	Percentage increase/ decrease
2015	1,65,918	24.8
2016	1,86,267	12.2
2017	2,47,133	32.6
2018	2,51,290	1.68
2019	2,59,221	3.1

(Source: Student and Exchange Visitor Program)

Year	H1-B applications
2015	2,69,677
2016	3,00,902
2017	2,47,927
2018	4,19,637
2019	1,16,031

(Source: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services)

Relaxation in US visa rules expected

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

INDIANS are the largest beneficiaries of the H1-B visas, with the number of applications increasing consistently since 2011, according to figures gleaned from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

While it was around 1.5 lakh that year, the number almost doubled in 2016. To be fair to Trump, the number of H1-B visa applications exceeded 4 lakh in 2018. But last year, it dropped by more than 3 lakh, perhaps because of the tightening of rules. "There will definitely be some relaxation in the visa regime, especially H1-B, under Biden but to expect too much would be foolish. It is not like the US will start welcoming Indians," said a research scholar on Indo-US relations at JNU.

She also played down the hype around Kamala Harris. "To expect that her election will benefit Indians and Indian-Americans is unfounded. Yes, there will not be unpredictable decisions, but norms will largely be the same," she said. Upadhyaya echoed her views. "Restrictions are likely as Biden is in favour of a wage-based allocation process for H-1Bs. This means instituting reforms in H-1B process and ensuring that it is used only for highly skilled, well-paid foreign workers," Upadhyaya said.

Another group of Indians that has an abiding interest in the US is the student community. The number of students flying out has been rising since 2013. But the rate of growth has slowed under the Trump administration.

During the Obama administration, the average percentage increase in the number of Indian students was 13.5%. This fell to 12.3% during the Trump tenure. But the decline is partly because the US may not be the universal first choice. "Over the years Indians have found new places to pursue higher education. Europe has become the preferred destination. The enrollment in US universities continues, but the numbers are going up in other parts of the world, resulting in the slowing growth rate to the US," the JNU researcher said.

A-G declines permission to initiate contempt case against Andhra CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

ATTORNEY General K K Venugopal has refused to reconsider his November 2 decision declining consent to initiate contempt proceedings against Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan Monhan Reddy and his principal advisor for making allegations against judges.

A-G, however, said his refusal to give consent cannot stop lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay from approaching the court, which can suo motu initiate contempt proceedings against the Chief Minister.

On October 6, Reddy had written to CJI S A Bobde about Justice N V Ramana, a senior judge of the Supreme Court, claiming that he was working against the elected government of the state after his orders to expedite pending prosecution against legislators from the CM's YSR Congress.

"Since the letter was addressed directly to the the CJI is seized of the case and it would not be appropriate for me to deal with it," the A-G said last Monday, explaining why he would not initiate contempt proceedings against Reddy. However, Upadhyay had written again to the A-G, asking him to reconsider his decision.

The top law officer had said not only is he required to consider whether particular statements or conduct will be prima facie contumacious but also whether it is in larger public interest to place such matters before the Supreme Court as a contempt petition.

In his opinion, Venugopal said the letter to the CJI with alleged statements that comprise contempt were later released to the media. But the letter was not marked confidential and so cannot be described as a private missive and was already being reported by the press.

"Hence there is no reason for me to change my mind," he added.

"As you are doubt aware, contempt is an matter between court and contemnor and no person as a matter of right can insist upon the initiation of contempt proceedings," Venugopal stated in his letter.

Reddy in his letter claimed that the senior judge was acting on behalf of his opposition, former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party.

COVID RULES

In a webcast, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said he is getting flak for going slow on reopening of places of religious worship. "I am ready for brickbats if it ensures good health and safety of citizens."

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Ahmedabad	34	16	Mumbai	35	23
Bhopal	30	13	Panaji	34	24
Jaipur	32	15	Patna	29	15
Amritsar	29	11	Lucknow	29	12
Chennai	32	25	Port Blair	31	25
Kolkata	31	20	Imphal	28	12
Srinagar	20	-1	Chandigarh	29	11

Many Bihar seats to see close finish on Nov 10

With Chirag Paswan, Upendra Kushwaha and Pappu Yadav contesting alone this time unlike 2015, the poll result is likely to be chaotic

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

THE Bihar poll outcome is likely to keep parties on their edge for far longer on Tuesday. In 2015 when the battle lines were clearer between the Grand Alliance and the NDA, as many as 52 of the total 243 seats which witnessed a see-saw change in electoral fortunes of candidates.

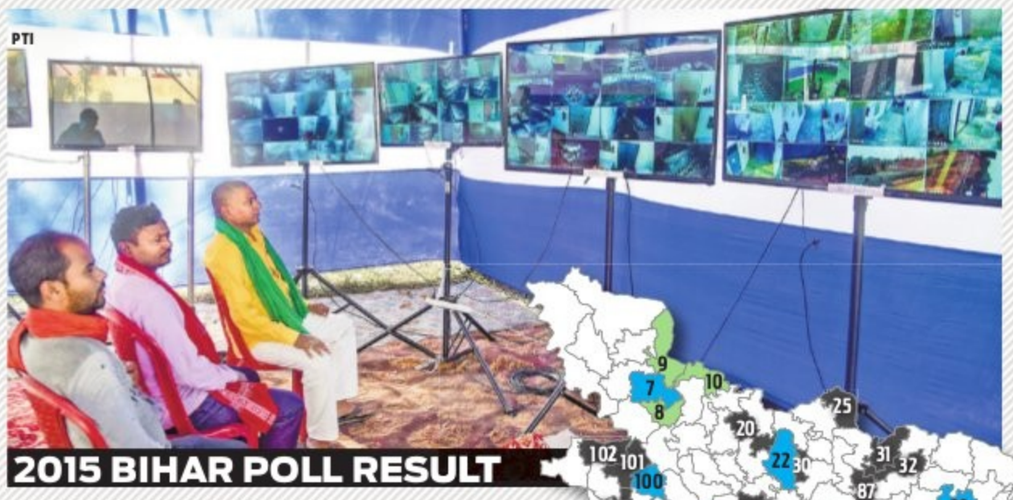
Eight Assembly seats saw victory margin less than 1,000 votes, while another eight had 3,000 votes separating winners and losers. In total, 52 seats had victory margins within 10,000 votes with a majority of them below the 7,000-mark.

The 2020 results can be expected to chaotic because of the presence of a large number of candidates on account of three prominent regional aspirants — Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party, Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Samta Party and Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav' Jan Adhikar Party — staying away from the NDA and the Mahagathbandhan. In 2015, the battle lines were sharply drawn in the eastern state between the BJP-LJP-Hindustani Awam Morcha and the JD(U)-RJD-Congress.

The rise of sub-regional aspirations accompanied by the caste assertions of non-dominant social groups could further narrow the victory margin in a large number of seats. In 2015, Bihar's Seemanchal, Mithila and Magadh regions had witnessed close contests due to demography and caste combinations.

The Seemanchal region which went to the poll in the last phase could again see narrow victory margins due to three-time former Madhepura MP Pappu Yadav, who is known to have a strong followings among the Yadav community in south of the Ganga.

If LJP chief Chirag Paswan is seen harming the interests of JD (U) on a large number of constituencies, the outfit along with Jan Adhikar Party is seen splitting the caste mainstay of the RJD due to candidate selections.



PTI

2015 BIHAR POLL RESULT

VICTORY MARGIN LESS THAN 1,000 VOTES

116 Taraiya, 206 Chainpur, 194 Arrah, 59 Banmankhi, 100 Barauli, 38 Jhanjharpur, 7 Chanpatia, 22 Sheohar

VICTORY MARGIN LESS THAN 3,000 VOTES

8 Bettiah, 9 Sikta, 10 Raxaul, 58 Kasba, 172 Bihar Sharif, 184 Patna Sahib, 176 Nalanda, 210 Dinara,

VICTORY MARGIN LESS THAN 5,000 VOTES

226 Sherghati, 238 Gobindpur, 235 Rajauli, 101 Gopalganj, 102 Kuchaikote, 105 Siwan, 154 Pirpainti, 165 Munger, 161 Banka, 88 Gaighat, 96 Baruraj, 87 Jale, 25 Parihar, 30 Belsand, 31 Harlakhi, 32 Benipatti, 20 Chiraiya

Victory margin less than 1,000 votes

Victory margin less than 3,000 votes

Victory margin less than 5,000 votes

No celebratory firing, Tejashwi to workers

The RJD issued an advisory to all its district presidents for instructing party workers to maintain restrain on Nov 10. Improper acts like rude behaviour with competitors and celebratory firing will not be accepted, it said. RJD sources said Tejashwi Yadav has assigned four leaders, including his political advisor Sanjay Yadav, with the task of communicating this important message.

Work suffered as image building kept Nitish busy in last term: Experts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

VINIT Vijay, a banker in Darbhanga, said "all the developmental work relating to roads, electricity, water and other basic infrastructure were carried out in the first two terms of Nitish Kumar, but in the last term he got stuck in politics."

Mukesh Kumar in Muzaffarpur agreed. "The first years of the Nitish rule were great, but during the last five years nothing significant was done. All he did was ban the sale of liquor and putting restrictions on the sand mafia," said Kumar.

The people may not be entirely wrong. Take sectoral growth for instance. According to the Bihar Economic Survey 2019-2020, which has quoted National Statistical Organisation data, the primary sector grew by 9.6% in 2012-13, but fell to 0.6% in 2018-19.

The secondary sector grew by 27.8% in 2013-14, falling to 6.3% in 2018-19. Clearly, manufacturing, industry and factories did not perform well in the later years of the Nitish government.

The agriculture sector also showed mixed results. The total cereal production was 14,321.11 MT in 2014-15, it increased to 15,858,11 MT in 2018-19. But rice production fell from 8,241.62 MT to 6,115.53 MT in the corresponding period. As for pulses it remained almost constant in these years, with production being 428.93 and 453.43 MT.

On jobs, Nitish did poorly, becoming a major election issue. The rural and urban unemployment rates in 2017-18 were 6.8% and 9.0% respectively while the national average was 5.3% and 7.7%. Figures for salaried employees showed that Bihar's average, 11.9%, was lower than the national average of 23.4%. The percentage of casual workers in the state, 32.1%, was higher than the all-India figure of 24.3%.

According to retired journalist and political analyst Law Kumar Mishra, the primary reason behind Nitish not delivering in the last term was because he was busy only in image-building. "The first term was really good, the second term was satisfactory but in the last term he was confined only to *nal-jal yojana*. Nitish indulged in activities like calling (Mukesh) Ambani, (Gautam) Adani and Bill Gates in order to bring industries to the state but that did not happen."

Mishra said Nitish went on a self-promotion drive, with posters, banners and advertisements in the media. "The feel good factor dominated Nitish and gradually he became the most inaccessible chief minister in the country."

Economists seemed to agree with Mishra, who said the "arrogance of power" was the main reason why Nitish could not deliver. "Basically Nitish is not a democrat, he is an autocrat by nature and in any autocratic rule, initially a lot of development takes place but as time passes and the ruler becomes confident of his chair, he starts neglecting the people," said former economics head of the department of Patna University, Naval Kishore Chaudhary.

RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwary said, "it was not a double engine but a troubled-engine government." He said the government was preoccupied with things which had a disconnect with the problems of the people.

But BJP's Prem Ranjan Patel said the government had set a benchmark with all-round development in the last five years in education, health, road, power, employment.

KASHMIR

'Farooq fighting DDC polls as per Centre's wish'

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

APNI Party leader Javaid Hassan Baig claimed that National Conference president Farooq Abdullah had entered into an agreement with the Centre during his detention, saying that the NC patron is following "the script of the understanding" to restore normalcy in Kashmir.

Baig's statement came a day after National Conference and six other parties of the Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration on Article 370 restoration decided to contest the District Development Council elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The Apni Party is also contesting the DDC polls.

Talking to this newspaper, Baig claimed that the agreement was facilitated by former RAW chief A S Dulat. In February when Abdullah was under detention at his residence, Baig said, Dulat met the NC patron. "Abdullah is following the script of the understanding. As part of the understanding, he has agreed that they will become part of the process and need some space for cooling down tempers of people," Baig said. "In the script, those who were talking of bloodshed in Kashmir if Article 370 was not revoked, will cool down to ensure there is calm and normalcy."

Baig added that all the leaders, who have been released, were set free after an agreement with the Centre.

The Apni Party leader said the Centre wants Abdullah and others to tame anger of people in Kashmir so that normalcy is restored.

He said with the narrative now changing from autonomy, self-governance, Article 370 restoration to DDC polls, Farooq Abdullah is the most suitable choice for the Centre in J&K. "Why would they (the Abdullahs and others) like to lose this golden opportunity?"

Arnab Goswami shifted to Taloja jail from Alibaug, alleges threat to his life

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

REPUBLIC TV owner and editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami was shifted to Taloja central jail in Navi Mumbai on Sunday after he was found illegally using mobile phone at the quarantine centre at Alibaug, where he was lodged since his arrest on November 4 in connection with the abetment of suicide of an architect.

Jamil Sheikh, Investigation Officer (IO) of the suicide case, said that on late Friday evening, it was found that Goswami was active on social media using somebody's mobile phone. "We had seized his personal mobile when he was arrested from his Worli residence on Wednesday. As the IO, I wrote to the Alibaug jail superintendent seeking an inquiry report as to how he got access to a mobile at the quarantine centre. Thereafter, we decided to shift him to Taloja jail," Sheikh said.

While being escorting to the jail, Goswami claimed that he was assaulted by the Alibaug jailer when he asked to be allowed to speak with a lawyer and that his life was in danger.

Police personnel stand guard outside Taloja Central Prison where Republic editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami was shifted on Sunday morning | PTI

"I was not allowed to speak with a lawyer and I was also assaulted," he shouted from inside the police van.

However, Sirish Gupte, lawyer for architect Anvay Naik's family, said Goswami "has threatened, harassed and intimidated the family" and if given bail, he could harm them.

The Republic editor and two other accused — Feroze Shaikh and Nitish Sarda — were remanded in judicial custody until November 18 by a magistrate's court.

The Bombay High Court had on Saturday reserved its verdict on their interim bail plea and will pronounce its order on Monday. A notice issued late Saturday night on the HC website said the bench would assemble at 3 pm on November 9 for pronouncement of the order. Goswami's petition for quashing of the FIR against him is also pending in the court.

EXPRESS READ

Maoist killed in south Chhattisgarh

Raipur: A CPI (Maoist) cadre was killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in the strife-torn Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Sunday. "On a tip-off, a joint team of STF, district reserve guards and Cobra battalion were out on operation. An encounter ensued near Pamed after the rebels opened fire. A body of a Maoist cadre in uniform and the four weapons were found," the Bijapur SP said.

Civic polls: Raj corporators taken to MP

BHOPAL: Newly elected municipal corporators of Rajasthan's Kota South municipal corporation have been sent by the BJP to Madhya Pradesh to prevent their poaching by the ruling Congress ahead of the mayoral election.

According to informed sources, the group comprising between 36 and 40 corporators were lodged at a tourist bungalow in Madhya Pradesh's hill hotspot Pachmarhi in Hoshangabad district, around 565 km from Kota.

The corporators were brought in a bus to Pachmarhi on Saturday evening and are likely to leave on Monday night or Tuesday early morning for Kota to vote in the polls.

The BJP corporators and possibly some Independent corporators were brought to Pachmarhi on Saturday evening and have been housed in three hotels and resorts, including MP Tourism's Champak Bungalow and two heritage hotels.

According to informed sources, more than three dozen newly elected corporators were initially housed at a hotel in Ujjain district of MP, which is close to Rajasthan. But keeping in mind Ujjain's geographical proximity to Rajasthan and possibility of some Congress leaders tracking the whereabouts of these corporators, these corporators were shifted by six cars and one bus to Pachmarhi.

Sources added that a big lock is dangling outside the MPT Champak Bungalow to prevent any outsider from entering the heritage bungalow. *ENS*

Stones pelted at Cong team near Mizoram border

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

A Congress delegation met with hostile reception near the Assam-Mizoram border on Sunday where it had gone to survey the situation amid a bitter border row between the two states.

The Congress delegation comprised All India Mahila Congress president Sushmita Dev and leader of the Opposition in Assam Assembly Debabrata Saikia among others.

The Congress alleged the Mizoram Police had erected barricades near a bridge, two-three km inside Assam, and prevented the delegation from advancing further. "Saikia had informed the Assam chief secretary in writing ahead of our visit. However, we could not visit an Assam area as the Mizoram Police had asked us to go back. The Mizos pelted marbles at the Assam people. Such is the law and order situation," Dev alleged.

She lamented that the border trouble continued despite the Union Home Ministry holding talks with both states. "We will dispatch the marbles to you by post. You keep them at your office," Dev said, attacking Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

Dev also criticised Sonowal's virtual deputy Himanta Biswa Sarma, saying that he gets active only when there is an election.

"The border check post at Vairengte is far away from the place where they have put up barricades. We faced resistance not just from the Mizoram Police but also from Mizo villagers. They pelted stones at us by using catapults and shouted slogans," Saikia said.

Later, Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla discussed issues related to the border dispute with Mizoram chief secretary Lalnunmawia Chuaungo and his Assam counterpart Jishnu Baruah. Chuaungo said Mizoram was committed to the agreement arrived at the meeting. He hoped Assam too would reopen the roads leading up to Mizoram.

Dragon fruit to beat malnutrition, poverty

To check malnutrition among the rural populace and generate income for farmers, the Jharkhand Tribal Development Society has started distributing saplings of dragon fruit among impoverished farmers of Ranchi and Khunti under a pilot project. Officials said these farmers will be made master trainers to encourage other villagers to take up cultivation of dragon fruit. Regular consumption of this fruit is believed to increase production of RBC in the body, maintain blood sugar levels and improve functioning of the cardiovascular system. It is also a great source of Vitamin A, and helps in treating anaemia.

RANCHI DIARY

MUKESH RANJAN
Our correspondent in Jharkhand
mukesh.r@newindianexpress.com

Special ST/SC Courts to come up in Jharkhand

The Hemant Soren-led government in Jharkhand has decided to set up special courts in every district to address the cases related to atrocities against Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. The special courts will be set up to clear all such pending cases in all districts except Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Dhanbad and Deoghar where such courts are already functioning. According to officials, ST/SC courts in every district headquarters will help speedy trial of cases under the amended Section 14 (1) powers of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1988. A total of 1,953 suits are pending in 24 jurisdictions of the state under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act with a maximum of 318 in Dhanbad.

Special trains to beat festive rush

After getting green signal from Indian Railways and state authorities to operate trains keeping Diwali and Chhath festivals in mind, the South Eastern Railway has announced to run at least 13 trains. SER announced that there should not be much rush of passengers this Diwali and Chhath, hence a decision was taken to run fully reserved festival special trains. These trains will run between Hatia to Islampur, Hatia to Purnia Court, Tatanagar to Danapur and Ranchi to Patna. In addition to that, five one-way special trains will also be run.

Markets flooded with 'Made in India' products

Due to the impact of Coronavirus, the regular Chinese products, seen in the markets during the festival season, seems to be missing this year. However, products that are made in India are ready to add colour and gaiety to Diwali this time in Ranchi. According to a local businessman, they are avoiding any sort of Chinese products since last year. Due to the pandemic, the demand for decorative lighting is less as compared to last year but the response for made in India products is very positive, he added. Apart from lights and decorative items, even firecrackers that are being made in India have gained popularity.

50 mn
coronavirus cases have been recorded worldwide since last December

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	18	7	SNY	Los Angeles	31	18	SNY
Colombo	30	26	TDS	Melbourne	24	13	LC
Dhaka	34	25	LC	Moscow	15	9	LR
Dubai	37	25	SNY	New York	13	13	HR
Houston	33	21	LC	Singapore	32	26	TDS
Istanbul	24	17	LC	Toronto	16	11	LC
London	12	9	LR	Washington	19	15	LR

WHAT'S NEXT?

Saturday's election verdict isn't the last step in selecting an American president. Under a system that's been tweaked over two centuries, there is still a weekslong timeline during which the 538-member Electoral College picks the president

CERTIFYING VOTES
States count and certify the results of the popular vote. When completed, each governor is required by law to prepare "as soon as practicable" documents known as "Certificates of Ascertainment" of the vote. The certificates are sent to the archivist of the US

DEC 8
Dec. 8 is the deadline for resolving election disputes at the state level. All state recounts and court contests over presidential election results are to be completed by this date

DEC 14
Electors vote by paper ballot in their respective states and the District of Columbia. 33 states have laws or party regulations requiring electors to vote the same way the popular vote goes in the state

DEC 23
The certificates must be delivered to the designated officials.

DEC 26
The House and Senate hold a joint session to count the electoral votes. If one ticket has received 270 or more electoral votes, the president of the Senate, currently Vice President Mike Pence, announces the results.

JAN 20
The president-elect is sworn into office on Inauguration Day

Biden focuses on transition, plans to reverse Trump's policies

Trump's legacy moves such as pulling out of Paris climate treaty are among key priorities once Biden takes office; Joe may pick Republicans for Cabinet roles

President-elect Joe Biden (R) and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris | AP

WILMINGTON

JOE Biden used his first national address as president-elect to vow to heal a deeply divided nation, declaring it was time to "let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end" and reaching out to the millions of people who voted against him to say, "Let's give each other a chance."

Biden heads into his first full day as president-elect on Sunday with key staffing decisions to make as the coronavirus rages. The always-frenzied 10-week transition period before Inauguration Day on Jan. 20 already has been shortened by the extra time it took to determine the winner of Tuesday's election.

His top priority in the transition is expected to be quickly naming a chief of staff. Biden suggested during the campaign that his first call after being elected would be to Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, but his advisers have not said whether the two have spoken yet.

The Washington Post reported on Sunday that Biden is planning to quickly sign a flurry of executive orders to radically alter Trump's policies. Biden will reverse the president's withdrawal from the Paris climate treat and reverse US' withdrawal from the World Health Organization. He will also scrap the ban on travel from some Muslim-majority countries, the Post said, citing unnamed people in knowledge of Biden's plans. "Although transitions of power can always include abrupt changes, the shift from Trump to Biden... will be among the most startling in American history," the newspaper wrote.

Kamala's powerful speech

His running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, used her first address as vice president-elect to showcase her history-making place as the first Black woman to become vice president, an achievement that comes as the US faces a reckoning on racial justice. The senator is also the first person of Indian-origin elected to the vice presidency and the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in government.

"While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last," Harris said in her speech Saturday night.

Biden may not make top Cabinet choices for weeks. But he built his presidential run around bipartisanship and he has spent the days since Tuesday's election pledging to be a president for all Americans. That suggests he could be willing to appoint some Republicans to high-profile administration positions. *Agencies*

Trump may not concede but leave WH anyway

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump never admits defeat. But he faces a stark choice now that Democrat Joe Biden has won the White House: Concede graciously for the sake of the nation or don't — and get evicted anyway.

Trump is not expected to ever formally concede, according to people close to him, but is likely to grudgingly vacate the White House at the end of his term. His ongoing efforts to paint the election as unfair are seen both as an effort to soothe a bruised ego and to show his loyal base of supporters that he is still fighting. That could be key to keeping them energized for what comes next.

"He intends to fight," Trump economic adviser Larry Kudlow said as it was becoming clear that the president was headed for defeat.

Would Trump ever concede? "I doubt it," said Trump's long-time friend and adviser Roger Stone, whose prison sentence was commuted by Trump in July.

Donald Trump returns to the White House after golf following Biden's victory on Saturday | AFP

Allies suggested that if Trump wants to launch a media empire in coming years, he has an incentive to prolong the drama. So, too, if he intends to keep the door open to a possible 2024 comeback — he would be only a year older then than Biden is now.

There are many in his inner circle egging him on, including his personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani. The former New York mayor has been promising to provide the president with evidence of voter fraud but has produced little, including during a press conference he held Saturday in the parking lot of a small Philadelphia landscaping company next to an adult bookstore.

Trump's adult sons, Donald Jr. and Eric, have also urged their father to keep fighting and challenged Republicans to stand with them.

Kushner, the voice of reason?

Other political allies and White House officials, however, have pressed Trump to change his tone and commit to a smooth transition. They've emphasised to him that history will be a harsh judge of any action he takes that is seen as undermining his successor. And they have advised him to deliver a speech this week pledging to support the transition.

Trump senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner has told others that he has urged the president to accept the outcome of the race — even if Trump won't come to terms with how it was reached. *AP*

THIS ISN'T OVER, SAY TRUMPERS

Chanting "This isn't over!" and "Stop the steal," supporters of President Donald Trump are protesting at state capitols across the country. On the right, a woman holding crucifix takes part in a pro-Trump rally. On the far-right, an angry Trumper shouts at crowds that are celebrated after Biden was declaed the winner | AP

Fraud claims are just smoke & mirrors: The strategy to wage a legal fight against the votes tallied for Biden is meant to keep Trump's base of supporters on his side even in defeat, senior officials, campaign aides and allies told The Associated Press

Trump aides and allies also acknowledged privately the legal fights would — at best — forestall the inevitable, and some had deep reservations about undermining faith in the vote. But Trump and a core group of loyalists are sticking to this strategy

By the end of this week, Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani predicted the campaign would have filed "four or five" lawsuits, with a total of 10 possible. Campaign officials have also alleged that more than 21,000 had been cast in the name of the dead in Pennsylvania

WINNERS & LOSERS IN 2020 ELECTIONS

JOE BIDEN
Joe Biden won the popular vote by a huge margin — over 4 million votes. Exit polls also point to his high favourability among the American electorate. This represents a big comeback for the former vice president after he floundered initially in the primary campaign cycle

MITCH MCCONNEL
McConnell is the Republican Senator most responsible for pushing through conservative policies in the United States. He won his reelection in the Kentucky Senate seat easily

POLLS AND POLLSTERS
Polls were wildly inaccurate in both 2016 and 2020 in decisive states. Biden was supposed to have won by a comfortable margin, but instead many states' voting totals were too close to call. The polls were wrong even for Congressional races, especially for the Senate seats

GREEN NEW DEAL
The ambitious environmental policy proposal from the progressive wing of the Democratic Party looks even more undoable than before, with Biden possibly relying on a tiny House majority and the Senate still in GOP control. This green policy, which energised young voters, may not be taken up as legislation in a Biden presidency

ELECTION ANALYSIS

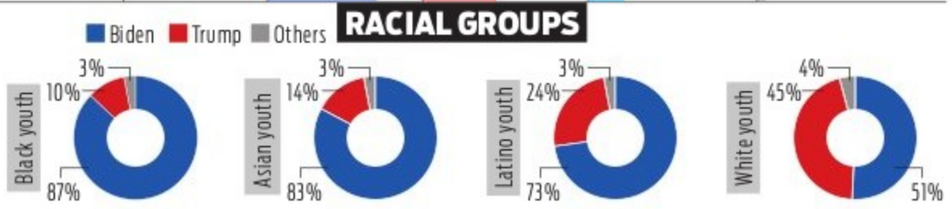
Young voters played key role in Biden's victory

Biden got a larger slice of the youth vote than Trump, a crucial factor for his victory. Young people were also critical in battleground states that swung the presidential election for the former V-P

56% A much as 56% of young voters participated in 2020, as per Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University

	% of youth votes	Youth votes for Biden	Youth votes for Trump	Net youth vote for Biden	Vote Margin: No. of votes by which Biden beat Trump
Arizona	Biden 60% - Trump 36%	315,000	189,000	126,000	21,000
Georgia	Biden 57% - Trump 39%	596,000	408,000	188,000	7,000
Michigan	Biden 62% - Trump 35%	446,000	252,000	194,000	148,000
Pennsylvania	Biden 58% - Trump 39%	469,000	316,000	154,000	34,000

RACIAL GROUPS



World media welcomes Biden's win, Kamala Harris' ascension to VP-elect

PARIS

WITH headlines such as "God Bless America", powerful media outlets around the world welcomed the defeat of Donald Trump but warned president-elect Joe Biden faced enormous challenges in healing the US.

The international press also focused on the feat of Kamala Harris, Biden's running mate who will become the United States' first female, and first Black, vice president.

"A new dawn for America", read the headline of The Independent in Britain, showing a photo of Biden standing next to Harris and noting her historic achievement.

The Sunday Times went with a picture of a black woman draped in the US flag and the headline: "Sleepy Joe wakes up America", taunting Trump by using the derogatory nickname he had used for Biden.

The Sunday People tabloid blared in capital letters: "GOD BLESS AMERICA".

Germany's mass-market Bild newspaper carried a photo of Trump with a headline: "Exit without dignity".

"What a liberation, what a relief", reported Germany's left-leaning Suddeutsche Zeitung broadsheet.

But it noted that Biden "inherits a heavy burden" like nothing faced by his predecessors, and warned that Trump accepting defeat was "unthinkable".

In Australia, the Daily Telegraph tabloid owned by Rupert Murdoch's media empire also focused on Trump's expected defiance and described him as a "hotball of fury".

"(Trump) will simply not accept the humiliation of seemingly being beaten by a foe he perceived to be feeble and barely worth turning up to fight," it said.

Iran's ultraconservative papers unsurprisingly celebrated the downfall of Trump, a leader who had applied a "maximum pressure" policy and punishing sanctions since 2018. *AFP*

Apps win, labour frets after 'gig worker' referendum

SAN FRANCISCO

A victory for the "gig economy" in California is likely to echo across the US, in a boon for app-based services while igniting fear that big business is rewriting labour laws.

Rideshare and delivery apps matching tasks with those willing to perform them as independent contractors sidestepped a labour law with the passage of Proposition 22 in a referendum put before state voters.

"Going forward, you'll see us more loudly advocate for new laws like Prop 22," Uber chief executive Dara Khosrowshahi said. "It's a priority for us to work with governments across the US and the world to make this a reality."

Proposition 22 -- backed by Uber, Lyft and other app-based, on-demand delivery services like DoorDash and Instacart -- effectively overturns a state law requiring them to reclassify their drivers and provide employee benefits.

The vote came after a contentious campaign with labour groups claiming the initiative would erode worker rights and benefits, and with backers arguing for a flexible economic model. Backers of Prop 22 spent some $200 million to win voters, dwarfing the budget of those opposing the referendum. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

SRI LANKA

Lockdown to be lifted

Sri Lankan government has said it will lift the ongoing capital district lockdown on Monday, but warned people to be more vigilant to prevent a possible third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Sri Lanka has so far reported 13,419 cases of coronavirus and 34 deaths related to it. "The curfew which was in force on the Western province will be lifted at 5 am tomorrow", Army Commander Shavendra Silva, who heads the national operations center for Covid-19, said. He said several areas in the province would still be under isolation.

MALAYSIA

2 dead after choppers collide

Two people were killed when a pair of helicopters from the same pilot school collided during a training flight. One helicopter fell into a wooded part of Kula Lumpur, while the other managed to land safely in a school field.

MYANMAR

National election sees large turnout

Voters in Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon, turned up in large numbers Sunday to vote in nationwide elections that are expected to return to power the party of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. More than 90 parties competed for seats in the lower and upper houses of Parliament, while there were also elections at the state levels. Her party's main challenger, as it was five years ago, was the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party.

Ethiopia PM reshuffles top officials as conflict grows

NAIROBI

ETHIOPIA'S prime minister announced major changes to his government's military and intelligence leadership on Sunday as he sought to defend a growing military action against the country's defiant Tigray region, and urged citizens not to target the ethnic Tigrayan people amid fears of civil war.

At least 60 people have been wounded and six killed in one location along the Tigray border alone, Doctors Without Borders said Saturday, and the United Nations warns of a major humanitarian crisis if up to 9 million people flee all-out fighting or the Tigray region remains largely cut off from the world.

PM Abiy Ahmed's cabinet reshuffle included little explanation but appeared aimed at bringing the most outspoken supporters of the operation in Tigray to the forefront.

The former deputy of the armed forces, Gen. Birhanu Jula, becomes army chief. Foreign Minister Gedu Andargachew was reassigned as security advisor to Abiy, with Deputy PM Demeke Mekonnen replacing him. Demelash Gebremichael was removed as head of intelligence and will lead the Federal Police Commission. *AP*

₹8,381 cr was pumped in by foreign investors into Indian markets in November so far, as confidence grew in view of resumption in business activities

MONEY-WISE

SHOULD YOU BUY AN ANNUITY?

MANY reasonably rich people come and ask me one question: Should I buy an annuity? My counter question is: Do you have enough money to afford an annuity? Normally, the answer is Yes. However, they counter it by saying "but it means I will leave less money for my children" an annuity gives such a poor yield... I can easily get 18 per cent return on my equity funds why should I get stuck with a 5.6 per cent p.a.

Subra, "I would only need a return of 13 per cent on my investment portfolio to outperform purchasing an annuity today." The media (all of us) has made a huge mistake called "choosing an end point mistake". Let me explain. All returns — 1-year, 3-year, 5-year, looks good now SIMPLY because we have chosen Nov 2020 as the end point. If 2021 gives us a MINUS 20 per cent return we will be staring at far worse numbers than what it looks today.

FINANCIAL ADVICE
PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹ 40 a day'

One of the mistakes I see people make is looking at a good return on a nearly risk-free investment (thanks to the smooth ride from 2009 to 2017 Dec and a fall and a quick recovery, as of now) and concluding that they would do better in the stock market because it has a higher long-term average return. So the sales guy tells him "we have got 18 per cent return in the past 10 years so you will get at least 16 per cent over the next ten years, so break your fixed deposit and put it in a balanced fund which will give you a monthly dividend. AND CAPITAL APPRECIATION.

Long-term market return averages are GOOD ONLY when we have an investment portfolio that isn't used to fund specific future liabilities or to meet SPECIFIC expenses. When you want to use equity funds for intermittent withdrawal for expenses like marriage, education, vacation.etc. you run the SEQUENCE OF RETURN RISK. This is dangerous.

On the other hand, when we are saving and investing in stocks for a single future expense, like buying an annuity or paying for a wedding, we cannot (or may not) be sure that we will be able to sell the shares at the price needed to pay that liability when it comes due. So we tend to beat the sequence of risk BY SELLING when we can. We may know how much the wedding will cost and when it will be held but we won't know the future value of our share investments until the day we want the money arrives. However, in my case (I am not yet 60, and still earning) I would like to buy an annuity in 3 instalments - one when I am 68, one when I am 75 and one when I am 80 years of age. This reduces my interest rate risk AND I get better rates as my age increases. I would recommend this strategy to all of you. However, like always, consult a financial adviser before you invest your hard earned money.

One of the investors wanted to put his money in an equity mutual fund and let it grow at 18% for 10 years..so that he can buy a PENSION at a later stage..I mean "safe" annuity. You want a larger benefit to be bought at a later date, then does it make sense to expose the assets you have earmarked for safe income to share market risk for 10 years first? It's like saying I need ₹10 lakh for my daughter's marriage in 2025. Right now I have only ₹2 lakh.

Let me go to the races (or day-trading) so that I can make this ₹12 lakh in two years so that I can have a grander marriage. All the best. God bless, but that is recklessness, not risk-taking.

Markets turn brighter but caution prevails

RAJAS KELKAR

IT is that time of the year when you want to celebrate. Stock markets had an early Diwali last week. Benchmark indices like the S&P BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty 50 rose over five per cent in the week. The rally was fuelled by some strong buying by foreign portfolio investors.

Prospects of financial markets getting cheap money are driving gains. The US just got a new president who may spend more to provide relief to the country's people through an economic stimulus. Trillions of dollars are ready to get pushed across markets. When markets are flooded with money at near-zero interest rates, there is a 'risk-off' approach towards assets like equities. Despite gold prices staying near record highs, equity prices in the US and emerging markets in India continue to rise.

However, there is a need to exercise caution. After every sharp surge, this column would recommend reading through the fine print.

There are signs of recovery. Car sales have grown, the government's monthly collection of goods and services tax is back to over ₹1 lakh crore, and there is excitement in businesses opening to regular working hours.

Many analysts expect a 'V-shaped' economic recovery to play out. Some also suggest that India's growth forecast of a near-10 per cent contraction could see a change. There are positive noises made by businesses, too, in quarterly result commentaries. A survey by McKinsey and Company, a global consulting firm, found that consumers around the world are shifting their buying to value and essentials. In India, consumers are showing a sign of moving to buy things beyond grocery ahead of the festive season. However, there are no signs of a recovery that could justify a runaway rally in the stock market.

AMIT BANDRE

$568 bn
Assets of SBI, the only bank that features in 100 global banks' list

With a few sectoral hiccups, most public banks continue to underperform. The Nifty Bank index reflects this disappointment

Risks ahead

In the stock market, domestic mutual funds and institutions remain net sellers. That means mutual funds are facing a redemption pressure. Those who had diligently started systematic investment plans have either stopped them or have begun to take that money out for meeting monthly expenditure. The government already admitted last month that people withdrew employee provident fund money for expenses. If there is any financial distress among households, it would have an impact on their spending.

A fundamental issue is investments in the economy. For anyone to bet on future growth, businesses and individuals need to borrow more and spend. Presently, the government is the only spender in the economy. That is possible because the government owns the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It can borrow money from the market quickly and use it for expenditure. Credit growth remains slow.

The banking sector is a cause of concern. The non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) have had a rough 2020. RBI deputy governor M Rajeshwar Rao had warned about the risks associated with NBFCs in a speech last week. He pointed that as at end-March 2020, NBFCs have been the largest net borrowers of funds from the financial system. He also said that more than half of that borrowing is from banks. Another report by Ernst & Young, a global consulting firm prepared for FICCI, an industry body, pointed out that the pandemic has disrupted the already existing stress in the system. That has happened due to a significant drop in new customer acquisition and a sharp fall in repayments and collections. There was also a so-called liquidity crunch or shortage of money as regular banks refused to lend more to NBFCs. There is a suggestion that large NBFCs be converted into banks.

For a nation to grow at a faster rate, it needs several healthy banks. Only the State Bank of India with assets worth $568 billion features among the top 100 global banks in the world. There are at least 16 Chinese banks in the S&P Global list. The problems in the banking sector have resulted in the underperformance of most public sector banks and NBFCs. That Nifty Bank index reflects the disappointment. It has performed poorly in comparison to other sectoral indices since March 2020. The lack of confidence in the banking sector could stall any potential economic growth.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

BHARTI AIRTEL

Current Price ₹449.75

Target Price ₹650

Bharti posted better-than-expected performance in 2QFY21 despite no tariff hikes. Its strong competitive position was seen in its robust 10m quality subscriber adds, which led to cumulative ARPU improvement of 5%. Delay in tariff hikes has been a key issue and has led to sharp correction in the stock price. But, with a healthy FCF, Bharti's position is hedged, with no urgent need to seek a price hike. We estimate 22% EBITDA CAGR over FY20–22E.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

CHEAPER GOLD

Eighth tranche of SGB scheme to open Nov 9

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIANS have an emotional attachment to the yellow metal. So, if you are planning to invest in gold this Diwali then you can certainly opt for Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) instead of gold in its physical form. Here are all the important things that you need to know about the gold bond.

The eighth tranche of sovereign gold bonds for this financial year will open for subscription on November 9 and will close on November 13. The issue price for the bond scheme 2020-21 Series VIII has been fixed at ₹5,177 per gram of gold. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to offer a discount of ₹50 per gram less than the nominal value to those investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode. For such investors, the issue price will be ₹5,127 per gram of gold, RBI said.

These gold bonds have become quite popular as they offer investors twin benefits of price appreciation along with a fixed 2.5 per cent coupon per year. Interest earned on these schemes is added to the holders' income, and taxed according to their slab rate. Gold bonds have a maturity period of eight years, but investors have the option to exit after the fifth year. Experts say SGB is an effective way to invest and is more attractive if the buyer holds it on till maturity.

Sebi doubles overseas exposure limit for mutual fund houses to $600 mn

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIAN mutual fund investors will now have a greater opportunity to derive the potential benefits, and risks, from exposure to the international markets. Last week, the Securities and Exchanges Board of India (Sebi) tweaked regulations for mutual funds and doubled their individual foreign exposure limit from $300 million to $600 million. This is the first time in over a decade that this limit has been changed and it allows mutual funds to allocate a far higher share of their corpus in foreign securities.

The move is a response to several requests from the mutual fund industry and the sharp rise in foreign assets under management (AUM). According to industry executives, several of India's 44 mutual funds had begun pushing the earlier individual foreign investment limit of $300 million. "The increase will allow fund houses to allocate a wider share of potential resources in international opportunities," said an senior executive at a mutual fund house, adding that while more exposure to global markets may come with its own risks, a wider array of opportunities would generally help fund houses manage risk better by hedging and protect returns.

The regulator, however, has also put in place a measure to prevent a sudden surge in foreign investments. According to the new guidelines, existing MF schemes have a headroom of 20 per cent of their AUM over the past three months for foreign investments. "This will be subject to the overall $600 million limit. It is a way to ensure that smaller funds don't increase their foreign exposure to risky levels," said another MF executive.

While each individual MF can make up to $600 million foreign investment, the entire industry itself has been capped at a foreign investment limit of $7 billion. In order to ensure no MF is pushed out of the opportunity to invest in foreign securities, SEBI has also reserved a space of $50 million foreign assets for each fund house.

Mutual funds can invest $200 million in overseas overall industry limit of $1 billion. A mutual fund which is launching a New Fund Offer and intends to invest overseas will now be required to specify the amount it will invest outside India and do it within six months.

EXPRESS READ

Affidavit form not needed to claim ESIC benefit

New Delhi: The Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has relaxed conditions for seeking claims for unemployment benefits, doing away with requirement to submit affidavit form by claimants. Such claims through affidavit form are no longer required now under Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY) of the ESIC, a labour ministry statement said. These claims will be submitted online along with scanned copies of required documents, it added.

IOB seeks capital support of ₹1,000 cr from Centre

New Delhi: Public sector lender Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has sought a capital support of about ₹1,000 crore from the government in order to create buffer for any exigency. The bank, which has posted profit for the last three consecutive quarters, expects to continue the trend in the remaining part of the current fiscal year with increased focus on recovery and business pick up. According to IOB Managing Director P P Sengupta, the request is up to ₹1,000 crore.

Sebi brings in flexi-cap category with freedom to invest across multi-caps

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

THE Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has introduced 'flexi-cap' category to provide increased flexibility to mutual funds. The new category will allow existing funds to continue without restrictions in portfolio, save for just tweaking the name. Flexi-cap funds will be required to invest at least 65 per cent of the corpus in equity, but, unlike multi-cap funds, there would be no restriction in allocating funds across large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap stocks.

"In order to give more flexibility to the mutual funds and taking into account the recommendations of Mutual Fund Advisory Committee (MFAC), a new category named 'Flexi Cap Fund' under equity schemes will be available," Sebi said in a circular dated November 6.

In September the capital markets regulator announced new asset allocation rules for multi-cap funds, which are required to invest at least 25 per cent of the corpus in large-, mid- and small-caps. This upset the investors in many large mid-cap funds including Kotak Standard Multicap Fund, the biggest multi-cap scheme holding assets worth ₹29,551 crore. There were also fears that existing multi-cap funds would be compelled to purchase mid- and small-cap stocks and these segments would not have the liquidity to absorb the extra demand, a point raised by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). After taking feedback from the industry, Sebi introduced flexi cap schemes to avoid disturbance in the existing multi-cap funds.

All they have to do now is to change the name. The move has cheered up investors who were cautious about their investments in multi-cap funds due to the change in portfolio allocation rules.

"Mutual Funds have the option to convert an existing scheme into a Flexi Cap Fund subject to compliance with the requirement for change in fundamental attributes of the scheme in terms of Regulation 18(15A) of SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996," the markets regulator added.

However, the fund houses, in such cases, will have to give investors a 30-day window to exit, without any exit load.

Mutual Funds have the option to convert an existing scheme into a Flexi Cap Fund subject to compliance with the requirement for change in fundamental attributes of the scheme... —Sebi circular

DIGITAL PAYMENTS

NPCI's 30% cap on market share of third-party UPI players to impact consumers

BISMAH MALIK @ Bengaluru

WITH the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) mandaring third party applications like Google Pe, Phone Pe, Paytm and Whatsapp Pay, among others, to process 30 per cent of the UPI transactions beginning January, 2021, consumers are apprehensive of how this will impact them.

Amongst various modes of digital payments like debit and credit cards and Rupay, United Payments Interface (UPI) has been the most popular among Indian users having breached two billion mark in October alone, according to NPCI data. Meanwhile, the implications of COVID-19 have accelerated digital adoption and the number of people using contactless payment options such as UPI has gone up significantly post-lockdown.

The only time the UPI transactions witnessed a dip was in April likely due to a pause in most economic activity as the country was going through the lockdown phase. Earlier this month, Walmart-backed Phone Be claimed it commands 40 per cent of the UPI market share with 250 million registered users. Together, Google Pe and Phone Pe command over 80 per cent of the UPI transactions market. With Whatsapp Pay also getting ready to roll out its payment service, a lot of concerns have arisen on how the new rules will play out.

According to fintech industry analysts, customers may not have to worry in the short term when it comes to using apps like Google Pay or Phone Pe for UPI transactions, since these companies have been given two years time beginning January, 2021 to comply with the new guidelines in a phased manner. Eventually, however, these companies may restrict the number of times a user can opt for UPI transactions on any given app and increase the price limit to say about ₹2,000 per customer. As a result, users will need to move to other options or install other apps like MiPay, Jio Pay, Future Pay or Amazon Pay if a bulk of their payments, cash transfers is happening through UPIs.

In total, there are 27 third party apps currently available in India which offer UPI services, but not all of them have a substantial user base. NPCI's 30 per cent capping announcement is expected to bring down the dominance of one particular company in the digital payments market.

Another point to be noted regarding availing of Whatsapp Pay service is that not all users will have the facility since NPCI has allowed the firm to only make it available for just 20 million customers. Whatsapp, in general, has a user base of over 400 million in India. The advantage of simple UPI processing with Whatsapp cannot be achieved fully in peer-to-peer transactions if the other party doesn't have a Whatsapp Pay.

More clarity and detailed standard operating procedure are awaited.

Cap doesn't apply to Jio

The new caps do not apply to Reliance's Jio Payments Bank, or to Paytm, because they have licenses and they do not fall into the "third-party apps" category.

Saha suffers hamstring tear

Senior wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha has been diagnosed with a hamstring tear which will raise questions about his availability for the upcoming tour of Australia. "Wriddhiman Saha has a hamstring tear," Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper David Warner confirmed on Sunday. The degree of the tear is not clear.

Capitals punishment for Hyderabad

All-round show by Stoinis & Dhawan-Hetmyer knocks take Delhi to final, Warner's men pay for missed chances

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Shikhar Dhawan notched up his fourth fifty of the season against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Abu Dhabi on Sunday | SPORTZPICS

HEADING into Qualifier 2 in Abu Dhabi, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals were two sides on opposing sides of the form spectrum. While the former had won five of their last six matches, the latter had lost five of the last six. Yet, on Sunday, Delhi rediscovered their mojo and heart to advance to their first ever IPL final.

Even if Hyderabad helped them along — dropped catches, overthrows, off-radar bowlers and David Warner losing his stumps in the second over — Delhi stopped being stubborn, made brave moves and were rewarded for their off-field decisions. The man who embodied this was Marcus Stoinis, whose all-round display helped the side to a 17-run win.

After embracing three weeks of slapstick and farce, it was an almost flawless day for Shreyas Iyer, who opted to bat first. Having seen his batsmen fold repeatedly in recent times, the pundits in the commentary box questioned the decision. That argument had merit. In the last 10 matches, their first-wicket partnership was cumulatively worth 62 runs at 6.2.

But their decision was vindicated an hour later. Prithvi Shaw was dropped and Stoinis, who opens for his BBL franchise Melbourne Stars, was paired with Shikhar Dhawan. And the duo went big, scoring 86 in just 8.2 overs. Even if the southpaw contributed more, it was the Australian who first took the attack. Free of fire-fighting responsibilities lower-down the order, Stoinis took a couple of overs to assess the strip, more batsmen-friendly than in recent times. He went from three off seven to 30 off 16. He was extremely severe on Jason Holder, whose four overs went for 50. That's the reward for playing attacking cricket against medium-pacers who rely on variations. It was like watching an apex predator size up its prey before ambushing it.

The Hyderabad bowlers, who usually asphyxiate opposition, had to readjust. In striving to do something different, they bowled right into the swinging arc of Stoinis and Dhawan, whose two big sixes off Shahbaz Nadeem a highlight. This was the Dhawan off a month ago, charging bowlers and bisecting fielders behind square on both sides. But Hyderabad were to be blamed here as their bowlers either gave him room to free his arms or fed into his pads.

Even if the innings lacked punch at the end, Delhi also promoted Shimron Hetmyer ahead of Rishabh Pant and Ajinkya Rahane. That move paid dividends as Hetmyer finished with an unbeaten 42 off 22.

The target of 190 looked like 290 after Stoinis with his Test-match length took two wickets in three balls in the fifth over. Even though Abdul Samad and Kane Williamson raised hopes of a heist, Stoinis repeatedly bowled it outside off and asked the Kiwi to hit over point. He miscued one and that opened the floodgates. Rabada took three wickets off as many legal deliveries to begin the celebrations.

They will have to keep it to a minimum because Mumbai Indians will be waiting. The three matches between the two will not inspire much confidence for those following Delhi. In the first match, Mumbai won by five wickets. In the second, Mumbai won by nine wickets. In Qualifier 1, Mumbai won by 57 runs.

Brief scores: Delhi 189/3 in 20 ovs (Dhawan 78, Hetmyer 42 n.o, Stoinis 38) bt Hyderabad 172/8 in 20 ovs (Williamson 67, Samad 33; Rabada 4/29, Stoinis 3/26).

Supernovas vs Trailblazers

Defending champions Supernovas take on Trailblazers in the Women's T20 Challenge final in Sharjah on Monday. Both teams won one of their two league matches. Talking points from the final...

CHAMARI FACTOR

Had top internationals from Australia, New Zealand and England taken part, it would have been hard to see Chamari Athapaththu, the Sri Lankan captain, in the squad. The aggressive opener lit up the stage with scores of 44 and 67, the highest for Supernovas in both matches. Come Sunday, one can expect her to go hard again.

VINTAGE JHULAN

Playing the shortest format after 17 months, India women's highest ODI wicket-taker did not show signs of rustiness. Having retired from T20Is, the medium-pacer troubled batters with seam movement as she returned figures of 3-0-13-2 and 4-0-17-1.

SPIN TO WIN

So far, spinners have had an upper hand — they have accounted for 20 of the 35 wickets in three matches — on a Sharjah pitch that has been used for close to 50 days for the IPL. With both teams having boasting quality spinners, one can expect them to play a key role again.

PREVIOUS WINNERS
Supernovas (2018, 2019).

Lowest total this season **47**

Highest total: 146

2
Two of the three matches went to the last over.

Bajrang off to US after marriage if wrestling worlds is not held

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

THE next couple of weeks are going to be important for star wrestler Bajrang Punia. On personal and professional fronts. The World No 2 in 65kg is going to tie the nuptial knot with Sangita Phogat on November 25. He will hardly have time to spend at home. Even if the World Championships scheduled in Serbia from December 12-20 is cancelled, soon after the marriage Bajrang will leave for the USA on an exposure trip.

"We are awaiting United World Wrestling's (UWW) decision on the worlds. The UWW's executive committee will announce the fate of the tournament on November 12. If they decide not to hold the event, we will go to the USA for training," Shako Bentinidis, Bajrang's Georgian personal coach, told this daily. He informed that the plan has been discussed with Wrestling Federation of India, which has approved it.

The 26-year-old Bajrang, who has qualified for Tokyo Olympics, is attending the national camp at SAI centre in Sonepat. His would-be wife Sangita said Bajrang will take leave for a week for the wedding. "The ceremony will be a private function given the situation caused by the pandemic. It will take place in our village Balali (Haryana). A few from the wrestling fraternity may attend the function," informed Sangita, youngest daughter of famous wrestling coach Mahavir Singh Phogat.

The 22-year-old Sangita, who competes in the 55kg category, said Bajrang has yet not decided if there will be a function at his place in Sonepat. "He will head for the USA if the world meet doesn't happen. I am not sure whether I will accompany him, as it's a training-cum-exposure trip."

Bajrang is getting married on Nov 25

The duo got engaged in November last year and decided to marry after the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Postponement of the Tokyo Games made them change the plan.

Coach Shako is satisfied with the ongoing training, but said the foreign trip will keep his ward in better shape for the upcoming events including Olympics. "He is training with wrestlers from other weight categories including 74kg at the moment. It is going on fine but I hope international flights resume and we get a chance to train abroad."

Gokulam get off the blocks, among first I-League sides to start training

MARTIN JOSEPH @ Kochi

Gokulam Kerala players during a training session in Kozhikode

THE I-League season is set to get underway from January 2021 and Gokulam Kerala FC are wasting no time as they are among the first participating clubs to resume on-field training activities.

Footballing activities had resumed in India from October with the I-League qualifiers being played in Kolkata. The Indian Super League is also set to get underway from November 20 with clubs busy with pre-season preparations in Goa and playing friendlies against each other.

However, as far as clubs participating in the I-League are concerned, the Kozhikode based outfit have hit the ground running. "Of course, other than Mohammedan Sporting who won the I-League qualifiers, Gokulam are probably the only team to have started training as far as teams who will participate in the upcoming I-League is concerned. We have given all the clubs the Covid-19 SOPs for training from All India Football Federation (AIFF) and rest is down to them," said I-League CEO Sunando Dhar.

The Kerala club had initially planned to resume training by mid-October but they had to wait since Section 144 was imposed in Kozhikode during that time. After getting permission from the district administration to train at the EMS Corporation Stadium recently, the players including those from other states completed their mandatory quarantine period and took to the field for light training.

Meanwhile, their Italian head coach Vincenzo Alberto Annese arrived on Saturday and has gone into quarantine. "We would have preferred more time (to train ahead of the new season). But this situation is new but I want to prepare my guys to be at their maximum. Everybody would prefer two-three months preparation but we need to understand the situation and respect it," said Annese who flew in from Armenia.

While Gokulam were not able to have any on-field activities for almost half a year, they had started online training for players last month. "I've been keeping in touch with players and everyone at the club. I was preparing the guys from one month so that they don't start from zero. It was also a good time to understand and get to know each other. They've been following the training programmes set out by our trainers to maintain their physical fitness," said Annese.

While the domestic players are all in Kozhikode and residing at their club-house, their new foreign recruit Dennis Antwi Agyare, who hails from Ghana, is expected to arrive next week.

Some of the key protocols set in place by the AIFF include: disinfecting the stadium, office and the residential facility for players, staged training activity and starting with six players per group, temperature checking in morning and evening, team physios regularly monitoring players for symptoms etc.

"The sessions per se won't be any different due to the Covid-19. The staff are well aware of my training programmes and they will implement it. And it will be like I'm there even though I'd be in my room until my quarantine ends," said Annese.

It's also the first time any team sporting activities is happening within Kerala ever since the lockdown.

IGU to hold delayed AGM on November 22

ATREYO MUKHOPADHYAY @ Chennai

THE much-awaited annual general meeting of the Indian Golf Union (IGU) will take place in Delhi on November 22. The main point on the agenda is completing the election process which could not be completed at the previous AGM in December, 2018, following a court order. After another order allowed the process to be completed, lockdown delayed the matter further.

Complications arising out of the stay on the election process resulted in IGU getting derecognised by the sports ministry for violation of the National Sports Development Code. At present, the IGU is recognised till December 31, 2020. Election of office-bearers and governing council members is expected to restore normalcy. IGU runs amateur golf, conducts junior tournaments and selects teams for Asian Games, Olympics and other events.

The AGM offers members the provisions of being present physically and joining in online. At the December 2018 meeting, candidates had been nominated for four office-bearers and eight governing council members. As per a court instruction, these names have been kept in a sealed envelope, which will be opened by a court-appointed returning officer on November 22. Once the election process is completed, papers will again be submitted to the court.

It must be noted that CSR Reddy, who was in contention for a place in the governing council in 2018, passed away last year. Another, Lt Gen (retd) AKS Chandele, has crossed 70 and become ineligible following the age clause in the Sports Code. If they are elected, the IGU will have to hold fresh elections or nominate two new names in their place.

In certain quarters there are talks that if elected, tenure of the new committee will be over almost immediately because the elections were held for the years 2018-20. Acting IGU treasurer Ishwar Achanta said that cannot be the case since the previous AGM was not completed and no one was permitted to officially take over. "The tenure, as per Clause 30 of the IGU MoA (Memorandum of Association), starts from the date of assumption of office. Since the December 2018 AGM was stayed, we are guided by this provision, in terms of having assumed office or not" he said.

EXPRESS READ

Gymnastics meet in Tokyo to show Olympic possible

TOKYO: The good news for the Tokyo Olympics is that Japan on Sunday held a one-day exhibition gymnastics meet in front of thousand fans with 22 athletes participating from Russia, China, and the United States. They were joined by eight from Japan. The event is the latest intended to show that the Olympics can open in under nine months.

Govindraj elected unopposed as KSSBA sec

BENGALURU: K Govindraj and B Dayanand have been elected unopposed as Karnataka State Basketball Association secretary and president respectively in the AGM on Sunday. J Alexander is the chairman. Besides the trio, vice-presidents, associate secretaries among others were also elected unopposed to the executive council of KSBBA for 2020-24.

Birthday boy Ramkumar settles for runner-up finish

ECKENTAL (GERMANY): Tennis pro Ramkumar Ramanathan yet again settled for a runner-up finish on the Challenger circuit, losing the final of the Eckental event to American Sebastian Korda, here on Sunday. The unseeded Indian, celebrating his 26th birthday, lost the summit clash 4-6, 4-6 to his seventh-seeded rival, ranked 135, in one hour and 23 minutes. It is now the fifth time that Ramkumar has not won a final on the Challenger circuit. His previous runner-up finishes came at Tallahassee (April 2017), Winnetka (July 2017), Pune (November 2017) and Taipei (April 2018).

Kyrgios' depression battle

AFP @ Sydney

NICK Kyrgios Sunday admitted to be being in a "lonely, dark place" during recent years as he battled depression sparked by the relentless grind of the tennis tour.

The temperamental star is one of the sport's biggest draw-cards, but has also faced intense criticism for his combustible antics on court, with a long list of misdemeanours to his name. They include an explosive racquet-smashing and expletive-ridden meltdown at last year's Cincinnati Masters that saw him put on probation by the ATP and ordered to seek professional help.

"I don't think people understand how lonely tennis can be," he told Sydney's *Sunday Telegraph*. "You're out there on the court on your own. You can't really talk to anyone. You have to figure things out for yourself. I did struggle with that."

Kyrgios said he had always been emotional and found it tough spending so long away from his Canberra home and family while on tour, admitting there were times when he was "seriously depressed".

"I remember waking up in Shanghai one year and it was 4pm and I was still in bed, curtains closed. I didn't want to see the light of day," he said. "I felt like no one wanted to know me as a person, they just wanted to get a hold of me as a tennis player and use me. I didn't feel like I could trust anyone. It was a lonely, dark place. And things came from that."

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL

Liverpool & City settle for draw; Kane spurs Tottenham, Leicester go top

AFP @ London

PREMIER League champions Liverpool FC settled for a point against rivals Manchester City after drawing 1-1 at Etihad Stadium in Manchester on Sunday. It was Liverpool who scored the opener through Mohamed Salah. Salah converted a penalty that was won by Sadio Mane, who was taken down in the penalty box by Kyle Walker.

Man City fought back and found the equaliser through Gabriel Jesus. Kevin De Bruyne failed to hit the target from the spot three minutes before half-time. With this result, Liverpool dropped to third spot. Man City are 11th with a game in hand. Earlier, Harry Kane's late goal helped Tottenham seal a 1-0 win against struggling West Bromwich Albion.

His 150th Premier League goal was perfectly timed after Tottenham had laboured to break down stubborn Albion.

Having scored his 200th Tottenham goal in all competitions against Ludogorets on Thursday, Kane now has 13 goals this season.

The win had propelled Tottenham to top of the standings ahead of Southampton before Leicister beat Wolves 1-0 to go top. Mourinho started with Kane, Gareth Bale and Son Heung-min in his front three for the first time, and while the latter two were quiet, Kane was on hand to clinch Tottenham's third successive league victory.

Tottenham are now unbeaten in their last seven league games but were below their best for long periods against a West Brom team still without a league win this term.

City's Gabriel Jesus (L) and Joel Matip of Liverpool in action on Sunday | AFP

Mourinho has had a recent habit of making social media posts that take a swipe at his players when they under-perform, so it would have been no surprise if the Tottenham boss was thinking of another acerbic message until Kane came to the rescue.

Atletico hit four

MADRID: Joao Felix scored a double to help Atletico Madrid thrash Cazid 4-0 in the La Liga. Luis Suarez and Marcos Llorente were also on target as Atletico made it five wins and two draws from their opening seven games and underlined their status as genuine title contenders.

They have scored 17 goals and conceded just two in that time. After the international break, Atleti play at home to Barcelona, when Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann will be up against their former clubs.

Bayern beat Dortmund

DORTMUND: Robert Lewandowski scored his 11th goal in just his sixth Bundesliga game this season as Bayern Munich went top of the table on Saturday with a 3-2 win at Borussia Dortmund.

Researchers from the University of Toronto have found that children with Kawasaki Disease (KD) remain at an increased risk for cardiovascular events even over 10 years after hospitalisation for their condition. The childhood illness causes blood vessels to become inflamed and swell.

Smart window that lowers energy needs

Placing hydrogel-based liquid within glass panels helps reduce 45% of heating and air-conditioning requirements

INNOVATION

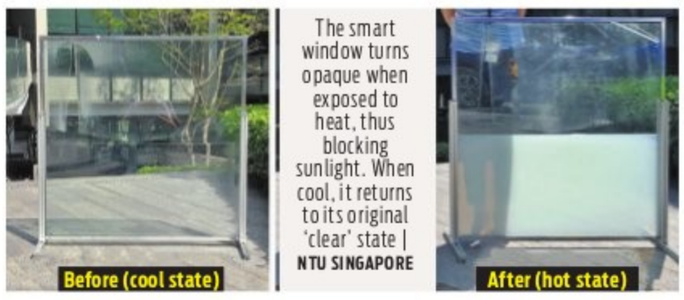
SINGAPORE: Scientists at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, have developed a liquid window panel that can simultaneously block the Sun to regulate solar transmission, while trapping thermal heat that can be released through the day and night, helping to reduce energy consumption in buildings.

Researchers developed their 'smart window' by placing hydrogel-based liquid within glass panels and found that it can reduce up to 45 per cent of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning energy consumption in buildings in simulations, compared to conventional glass windows.

The study, detailed in the journal *Joule*, found that it is around 30 per cent more energy efficient than commercially available low-emissivity (energy-efficient) glass, while being cheaper to make.

"By using a hydrogel-based liquid we simplify the fabrication process to pouring the mixture between two glass panels. This gives the window a unique advantage of high uniformity, which means the window can be created in any shape and size," said lead author of the study Long Yi.

According to a 2009 United Nations report, buildings account for 40 per cent of global energy usage, and windows are responsible for half of that energy consumption.



The smart window turns opaque when exposed to heat, thus blocking sunlight. When cool, it returns to its original 'clear' state | NTU SINGAPORE

NTU researchers created a mixture of micro-hydrogel, water and a stabiliser and found through that it can effectively reduce energy consumption in a variety of climates, due to its ability to respond to a change in temperature.

The hydrogel turns opaque when exposed to heat, thus blocking sunlight; and when cool, returns to its original 'clear' state.

At the same time, the high heat capacity of water allows a large amount of thermal energy to be stored instead of getting transferred through the glass and into the building during the hot daytime. The heat will then be gradually cooled and released at night.

The researchers conducted outdoor tests in hot (Singapore and Guangzhou) and cold (Beijing) environments. The Singapore test revealed that the smart liquid window had a lower temperature of 50°C during the hottest time of the day compared to a normal glass window at 84°C. The Beijing tests showed that the room using the smart liquid window consumed 11 per cent less energy to maintain the same temperature compared to the room with a normal glass window.

CAT WALK

A tiger inside its enclosure at Alipore Zoo, in Kolkata, on Sunday. It is one of the country's oldest zoological parks and was opened in 1876. The zoo re-opened in October after it was closed in March to help control the pandemic | PTI

Hoofed mammals originated in India?

PALAEONTOLOGY

NEW DELHI: Scientists have assessed over 350 fossils of hoofed mammals — a group that includes horses, rhinos, and tapirs — and suggest that they may have originated in or near present day India.

The 15-year study, published in the *Journal of Vertebrate Palaeontology*, pieces together a nearly complete picture of the skeletal anatomy of hoofed mammals that lived on the Indian subcontinent almost 55 million years ago.

In the research, scientists, including Kishor Kumar from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology in Uttarakhand, unearthed a sheep-sized animal with moderate running ability belonging to the now-extinct genus of mammals called Cambaytherium.

They said the animal possessed features that were intermediate between specialised hoofed mammals and their more generalised forerunners. Comparing its bones with many other living and extinct mammals, revealed that this group of animals represents an evolutionary stage more primitive than any known hoofed mammal.

According to the scientists, the findings support origin for the group in or near India, which they believe was an island continent during this time period, drifting northwards and later colliding with the continent of Asia to form a continuous landmass.

They believe the group likely evolved in isolation in or near India 66-56 million years ago, before dispersing to other continents when the land connection with Asia formed.

"In 1990, Krause & Maas proposed that these (mammal) orders might have evolved in India, during its northward drift from Madagascar, dispersing across the northern continents when India collided with Asia," said Ken Rose, lead author from Johns Hopkins University.

The researchers first explored Rajasthan in 2001, where they found a few fish bones. The following year, Rajendra Rana, continued exploring lignite mines in Gujarat.

"In 2004 our team was able to return to the mine, where our Belgian collaborator Thierry Smith found the first mammal fossils, including Cambaytherium," Rose said.

Despite challenging conditions, the researchers returned to the mines and collected fossilized bones of these ancient mammals.

"The heat, the constant noise and coal dust in the lignite mines were tough — basically trying to work hundreds of feet down near the bottom of open-pit lignite mines that are being actively mined 24/7," Rose added.

FACT OF THE MATTER

FDA rejects Biogen's drug

MEDICINE

Government health advisers sharply criticised a closely watched Alzheimer's drug last week, concluding there wasn't enough evidence that the experimental drug slowed the brain-destroying disease. The panel of outside experts for the FDA agreed that a pivotal study in patients failed to show "strong evidence" that the drug worked. Experts warned of multiple "red flags" with the data, which did not initially show any benefit until another analysis with later results. The drug, known as aducanumab, does not cure or reverse Alzheimer's. Friday's meeting follows months of scepticism about the drug, developed by Massachusetts-based Biogen Inc and Japan's Eisai Co.

'Mutant' mink virus on prowl

HEALTH

Coronavirus transmission from minks to humans does not necessarily mean the disease will become more dangerous, but scientists are on their guard in the wake of an astounding announcement from Denmark. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said on Wednesday that the country will kill more than 15 million minks and that a variant of the SARS-Cov-2 virus that had been transmitted from the animals to 12 people could impact a vaccine's effectiveness. The contamination of minks is not new either, with breeders in the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the US reporting cases. A few cases of humans being infected by minks have also been reported.

Vitamin D supplement for Covid

HEALTH

The UK government is said to be finalising a rollout plan for vitamin D to be distributed among the most vulnerable groups as emerging science suggests its role as a supplement in cutting the risk of death from Covid-19, according to a UK media report. Ministers are believed to be drawing up plans for four-month supplies of the vitamin to be delivered directly to the elderly at care home residents in England and those deemed to be clinically extremely vulnerable to the deadly virus. The move follows a similar move by the Scottish Government, *The Sunday Telegraph* reported. A number of studies have indicated that poor vitamin D levels are tied with a higher risk of death from the coronavirus.

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE

EXPRESS CONNECTS

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

First issue

The first issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine appeared in print on this day in 1967. Over the next 50 years, more than a thousand issues would follow

THE IDEA

A 21-year-old Berkeley college dropout and journalist named Jann Wenner put together a new kind of magazine that, in his words, would take rock music seriously

IN THE MAGAZINE

Issues of *Rolling Stone* typically include music and movie reviews, celebrity stories and photographs, information on new artists, fashion advice, and articles on politics

ON THE COVER

An image of John Lennon from his movie *How I Won the War* was the cover photo on the first issue. The Beatles, individually or as a group, have appeared on the cover more than 30 times

Raghu Dixit out of Love Mocktail 2

PG 4

Vehicle-free Church Street comes alive with buskers, shoppers and diners on the weekend

AL FRESCO FUN, ANYONE?

Want to experience a slice of Paris in the city? Head to Church Street on weekends, when it gets a quaint European vibe, complete with pavements lined with restaurant tables, buskers and fairy lights

Pics: Ashishkrishna HP

This initiative could affect us because many people prefer dining in their cars for safety, given the Covid-19 pandemic. But we can only hope that this initiative promotes more walk-in customers

—**Sreeram Anvesh,** co-founder, Brik Oven

Simran Ahuja

This weekend, as usual, cars honked and moved at a snail's pace on Brigade Road and St Marks Road. But nestled between them, Church Street witnessed a surprising silence as the pilot project of the Clean Air Street initiative by Directorate of Urban and Land Transport along with Indian Institute of Science kicked off this weekend. Both ends of the street were lined with barricades, cutting off traffic as people walked up and down at a leisurely pace, soaking in the sights and rows of twinkling fairy lights. The Bengaluru street almost resembled a Parisian lane for 48 hours, what with the pebbled road, and eateries having set up tables on the pavement. This weekends-only initiative is expected to go on till February next year.

For Pramod Kumar and Aarthi Sridhar, the new look came as a surprise. "I love this European vibe. Our initial plan was to take away our food but the ambience was so great so we made a spontaneous plan to dine outdoors," said Kumar, a resident of Jayanagar. Agreed Sridhar, who added that the openness helped put their concerns about the virus at ease. While the two of them enjoyed a meal at the outdoor seating of Coconut Grove, tables and chairs could also be seen outside other restaurants, like Social, Bheemas, Mainland China, Matteo, etc. Shachi Sondur, who was sipping coffee outside Starbucks, said, "It's a lot less lonelier because there are so many people around. Everyone is following rules too." Visitors were screened for temperature at both ends of the street.

Adding to the European vibe was Himal Thapa, a guitar-playing busker who was crooning music in the cool evening air. According to him, the crowd this weekend was almost twice of that during the last weekend. It was this crowd that Shubha Ramesh was hoping to tap into. The founder of Handmade Adda, which is located in JP Nagar, had decided to set up a small kiosk. She said, "I'm not disappointed with the business I've done today. It's not very crowded but people are coming. Which is good given the current situation."

While visitors were all for the traffic-free vibe, the jury is still out on how the project will fare for restaurateurs. A operations manager at a café on Church Street, on the condition of anonymity, told *CE*, "The outdoor seating is a hit or miss. Some could like it because of how it looks like a foreign country, while others could find the vendors or beggars disturbing. They harass customers dining outdoors." He added that the weather during the day played spoilsport too. "We hardly had 1 or 2 people. Even in the evening, we had only 50 per cent occupancy. It could also be that some people prefer privacy while eating," he added, explaining that their prime crowd – youngsters – is reduced. "Many have gone back home since schools and colleges are not open."

Akhlak Hussain, manager at Mainland China, said they served nine and 16 people outdoors during lunch and dinner, respectively. "We have four tables set up at the moment but we will add two more soon," he added.

Other eateries, like Brik Oven, are choosing to wait and watch before they set up outdoor seating. According to co-founder Sreeram Anvesh, the pizzeria will likely follow suit and set up furniture on the pavement in the coming two weekends. While he agrees that this could be beneficial in the long run, concerns over what it means for business do crop up. "This could affect us because many people prefer dining in their cars for safety, given the pandemic. But we can only hope that this promotes more walk-in customers," he said.

US vice president-elect Kamala Harris is a fashion icon in the making, say designers in B'luru

Power dressing

Express Features

Kamala Harris has been creating a buzz right from the word go. Ever since she was pronounced vice president-elect of the United States of America, viewers have been sizing up Harris, and not just for her speech, wherein she said, "... while I may be the first woman in this office, I won't be the last,"but also for her style statement. For her maiden speech after the election, Harris chose a Carolina Herrera white suit and satin pussybow blouse, styled with nude pointy toe pumps. White was a widely considered symbol of the suffragette movement of the early 20th century, when activist organisations fought for women to have the right to vote. This reference has got Bengaluru designers giving her a shout-out.

Fashion consultant Prasad Bidapa feels the warmth of her personality is reflected in the comfortable dressing which marks her style statement. "She seems as comfortable in a Kanjeevaram saree as she does in the functional pant-suited look she opts for at work. Now, as vice president of the USA, she may become a fashion icon but Michelle Obama and Melania Trump are both hard acts to follow," he says.

Unlike the former First Ladies of the White House, who were known for their lady-like statements, Harris' fashion sense is androgynous, says celebrity stylist Nirjal Basnet aka Queen Andro. "Her fashion is fresh just like her position right now," he says, adding that the powerful yet subtle style with a colour representing women of colour, radiates power but is relatable at the same time.

Clothes don't change the world but the women who wear them do, believes couturier Husna Sait, pointing out that Harris' power dressing goes to show that substance doesn't exist entirely independent of style. "Harris wields it most effectively, and reinforces the message of integrity and character, and it is reassuring. Her clothes and accessories never command more attention than the politician herself," she says.

While her dressing may be considered gender fluid by some, fashion co-curator Yagnika Chaitanya Cotha finds Harris' "well-tailored suit" dainty. "She wears a respectable appearance, walks with confidence, and is the epitome of elegance," Cotha says.

She seems as comfortable in a Kanjeevaram saree as she does in the functional pant-suited look she opts for at work

—**Prasad Bidapa,** fashion consultant

Simran Ahuja

Adopting a new mindset

They say blood is thicker than water but a city-based theatre group is trying to show otherwise. On World Adoption Day, on Nov. 9, Theatre for Change is releasing a series of videos where parents, grandparents and siblings of adopted children narrate their experiences with adoption, the challenges and prejudices they faced, and more. It is the brainchild of theatre person Sujatha Balakrishnan, who founded the group. The pre-recorded videos feature families from Bengaluru, Singapore, Delhi and New Mexico.

"When we think of a family, we only think of biological children. Isn't that a misinterpretation? All you need for a family is a heart to love and a home to share," says Balakrishnan. It's easy to sense her passion for the cause. The new grandmother recently welcomed her granddaughter, who was adopted by her daughter some months ago. "It upsets me when people refer to this concept as an 'alternative family'. Adopted families are just as much an authentic family as any other,"she says.

(From left) Jyoti Ballachanda, Bopanna Ballachanda, Naina Muthappa and Tanek Ballachanda

In an attempt to do away with a "sermonising" approach, the videos feature different families presenting their story in a theatrical format. **Shilpi Das** recorded two videos for this initiative. The city-based personal voice coach and voice artiste is a mother to 14-year-old Shiuli and 11-year-old Shubham. "We recorded the kids' grandmother making pakodas, which happen to be my son's favourite. She recalls the journey when we brought him home 11 years ago and how she took care of him for the first three months. The other video has my daughter narrate a story about adoption," says Das, who hopes people get inspired by her experience to "not confine their love to just blood relations."

Naina Muthappa, a USA-based chartered accountant and entrepreneur, believes that everyone who comes into your life has a reason and purpose. Her adopted child, she says, was meant to be with her and the little signs that made it obvious is the focus of her dialogue for the event. "Most people who knew that I was in the process of adopting said they would like to adopt as well. It was usually followed by a "but" -- either they didn't have the money or the time or their spouse didn't want to. They thought that life had to be perfect to adopt a child. If only the people with perfect lives adopted, no abandoned child would find a family. A child does not need a perfect family, just one that loves them," she says, adding that her video also includes the challenges that came with adopting an older child. "Kids always come with challenges to a parent. I think it makes you a better parent. I hope viewers will feel that maybe their family has room for one more," she adds.

(The videos will be available on Theatre for Change's YouTube)

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

SAMOSA PARTY

This festive season, indulge in samosas with a range of fillings like Tandoor Chicken Tikka, Amritsari Pindi, Pickley Paneer, Corn & Cheese, Jodhpuri Aloo Pyaaz and Pepper Chicken. **Price:** ₹ 165 onwards **Where:** samosaparty.in

FESTIVE LOOK

The Soch festive collection is all about traditional ethnic wear in contemporary colours and silhouettes. You can shop for kurtis, salwar suits, tunics, saris and dress materials. The collection is **available** at all Soch outlets and online on sochstore.com

DIWALI HAMPERS

This year's Diwali hampers are specially curated with the favourite organic picks to help boost immunity, healing, and cleansing. Zama Organics' hampers are available in three different sizes — small, medium and large. **For details, visit:** www.zamaorganics.com

DIY COFFEE

Brew your coffee from the comfort of your home with this kit that contains a packet of grounds, a French press and flavour sachets. **Priced at** `6,000. Available at: Slay.com and Amazon

FESTIVE BONANZA Get up to 50% off on top ethnic and home decor brands and get a chance to win prizes. **WHERE & WHEN:** At Phoenix MarketCity till November 15

Bling bag

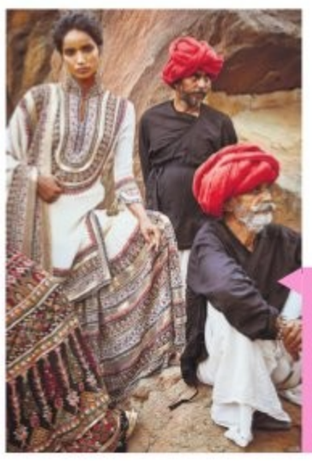
Lovetobag founded by creative visionaire Ayushi Kanoi, presents exquisitely handcrafted and intricately embroidered modern heirloom bags. They serve as keepsakes and are the perfect gifting treats for wedding ceremonies and other festive occasions. Priced from `5,000 to `15,000. **Available** exclusively on www.lovetobag.com

Food on wheels

Try your hands on dishes like Roasted Chicken, Pan Seared River Sole, Dal Makhani, India-Asian combo boxes, Pasta, Pizzas, and more with doorstep delivery by Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel. **Where:** Place orders on Swiggy or Zomato **When:** Ongoing

What's new?

Kiro, a newly launched Indian colour cosmetics brand, brings a new range of make-up products. Their range of indulgent colour cosmetics is mindfully infused with good-for-skin ingredients like oils, butters, and vitamins. From lipsticks to blushes and highlighters, every product is completely safe to be worn everyday. **Available at:** Nykaa



Happiness Hampers

Café Coffee Day has launched 'The Happiness Hampers,' a special series of gifts for friends and family. The hampers are: Tin of Mysore Royal Coffee + Coffee Times Cup @ `650; Tin of Mysore Royal Coffee + Stove Top Espresso Maker @ `950; and Tin of Mysore Royal Coffee + French Press @ `2,500. **Available till** stocks last at all Cafe Coffee Day outlets

New collection

Evoluzione presents designer Nakul Sen's latest range of festive wear. His new collection has gorgeous styles in chiffon with a variety of festive hues, patterns and detailing like Bandhej, sequin embroidery and tribal embroidery. This festive pret is a collection of luxury ready-to-wear apparel, including shararas, saris, lehengas, anarkalis and more. **For details, call** 9500028810 or 9884265292

Diwali treats

Why should humans have all the fun? This Diwali treat your furry friend with a festival hamper consisting of Chicken Paw-Cakes with activated charcoal to aid in your pet's digestion, a salt free chicken broth with herbs and chicken, a packet of protein packed Munchies which aid in dental hygiene as well and more. **Price:** ₹750 onwards **Where:** harleycorner.in

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN? We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

VANILLA CUP CAKES WITH STRAWBERRY ICING

INGREDIENTS

- **Maida:** 1 cup
- **Butter:** 1.5 tbsp
- **Powdered sugar:** 1/2 cup
- **Vanilla essence:** 1 tsp
- **Milk:** 1/2 cup
- **Baking powder:** 1/2 tsp
- **Baking soda:** 1/2 tsp

METHOD

- Mix the ingredients one by one.
- Pour the batter in cupcake moulds.
- Preheat an oven and bake the cupckaes at 180 degrees for 20 minutes.
- Cool them for 2 hours before doing the icing
- For icing, mix icing sugar, butter, fresh whipping cream and strawberry essence and colour.
- Put the icing on the cupcake before serving.

— Monisha Mathur, Coimbatore

FIT BIT

POORNA DHANURASANA

(FULL BOW POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'poorna' means 'full', 'dhanura' means 'bow', and 'asana' means 'pose'. It is an advanced asana that gives an intense stretch to the abdomen. In this asana, the whole body seems to be in the shape of a fully stretched bow. It is highly beneficial for improving the functioning of the digestive system and for getting rid of gastritis. It stimulates the Manipura (solar plexus) chakra. Stimulating this chakra increases the digestive fire and activates the flow of prana or life energy. It also represents the core self and is tied to the practitioner's sense of identity.

STEPS

- Lie on your stomach and keep your knees bent.
- Clasp your feet with your hands; your fingers should be in contact with the toes with the thumb on the sole and fingers clasping the big toe. Inhale deeply.
- This is the starting position.
- Raise your head, chest and thighs, pulling your feet as close to the head as possible with the elbows pointing upwards. Retain the breath.
- In the final position, the body resembles a fully stretched bow. Now, hold the position for as long as is comfortable with slow deep breathing.
- Exhale and slowly release the legs and return to the prone position.
- This is one round. Generally, this is sufficient.
- Finally, relax until your breathing and heartbeat returns to normal.

BENEFITS

- Stretches ankles, thighs, stomach, liver, spleen, pancreas, intestine, groins, abdomen, chest, throat, and deep hip flexors.
- Strengthens back muscles and spinal cord, and arm and thigh muscles.
- Improves posture.
- Stimulates abdominal organs and neck. Improves blood flow.
- Removes hunch from the upper back.
- Tones adrenal glands.
- Massages kidneys, liver and pancreas.
- Alleviates constipation.
- Removes fatigue, tension and anxiety and relaxes the whole body.

LIMITATIONS

- Those suffering from high or low BP, migraine, insomnia, hernia, colitis, stomach ulcer, tuberculosis, or have lower back or neck injury, must avoid.
- Pregnant and menstruating women must avoid.
- Do not practise before sleep at night.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUNDBOARD

YOURS POSITIVELY

This Tamil podcast focusses on self-improvement and wellness. It stress on topics such as mindfulness, self-development, and motivation thereby helping you to introspect, realised your values, and reach greater heights.

- On Spotify

CHITTTUKURUVI PODCAST

This is a podcast from the Kadhai Osai Audio Books team, for children. It aims to help your children develop interest in Tamil through stories, songs, puzzles, tongue twisters, riddles and more via your favourite podcast platform of choice.

- On Apple Podcasts

WHY WON'T YOU DATE ME? WITH NICOLE BYER

Nicole Byer is single and has been for decades. She's smart and funny but perpetually single. Every week, Nicole invites a comedian, friend, or ex-fling to interview their dating life and figure out her own.

- On Stitcher

THE NOSLEEP PODCAST

The NoSleep Podcast is a multi-award winning anthology series of original horror stories, with rich atmospheric music to enhance the frightening tales.

- On Spotify

REVISIONIST HISTORY

Revisionist History is Malcolm Gladwell's journey through the overlooked and the misunderstood. Every episode re-examines something from the past — an event, a person, an idea, even a song — and asks whether we got it right the first time.

- On Spotify

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

KALKI

Chellammaa, a singer by profession, gets married to a businessman. However, when he learns she cannot conceive, he insults and humiliates her, which further leads to their divorce.

- Cast: Prakash Raj, Geetha, Rahman, Shruti

RAMA RAMA RE...

An escaped death row convict ends up taking a road trip with an old man on a personal mission and a young couple trying to elope.

- Cast: K Jayaram, Nataraj, Dharmanna Kadur

DHOL

Guru falls in love with Priya, who is the sister of a wealthy industrialist, Nanda. When Nanda learns about Guru, he is furious and tries to separate him from his sister.

- Cast: Yogesh, Aindrita Ray, Prakash Raj

SHRAVANI SUBRAMANYA

When Shravani finds out that her boyfriend, Sudeep, is a thug, she attempts to escape from his clutches. Subramanya, a budding singer, tries to save her from Sudeep.

- Cast: Ganesh, Amulya

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 WHAT'S THE FASTEST WAY TO ALPHABETIZE YOUR BOOKSHELF? BY CHAND JOHN

You work at the college library. You're in the middle of a quiet afternoon when suddenly, a shipment of 1,280 books arrives. The books are in a straight line, but they're all out of order, and the automatic sorting system is broken. How can you sort the books quickly? Chand John shows how, shedding light on how algorithms help librarians and search engines speedily sort information.

2 WANT TO SURVIVE A HURRICANE? THINK LIKE A TREE...

What could possibly have allowed all but four live oak trees to survive hurricane Katrina? What characteristics enabled them to successfully weather the storm? Could humans learn some survival techniques from trees? Wired takes a closer look.

3 A MONKEY ECONOMY AS IRRATIONAL AS OURS BY LAURIE SANTOS

Laurie Santos looks for the roots of human irrationality by watching the way our primate relatives make decisions. A clever series of experiments in "monkeynomics" shows that some of the silly choices we make, monkeys make too.

4 A PHILOSOPHICAL QUEST FOR OUR BIGGEST PROBLEMS BY NICK BOSTROM

Oxford philosopher and transhumanist Nick Bostrom examines the future of humankind and asks whether we might alter the fundamental nature of humanity to solve our most intrinsic problems.

5 VISUAL ILLUSIONS THAT SHOW HOW WE (MIS)THINK BY AL SECKEL

Al Seckel, an expert on illusions, explores the perceptual illusions that fool our brains. He shares loads of cool tricks to prove that not only are we easily fooled, we kind of like it.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

FRENCH BIRIYANI (Kannada)

Simon, representative of a drug company from France and Asgar, local auto driver from Shivajinagar, share a two-day long journey in Bengaluru. That twisted journey with comedy of errors changes the way they look at life.

Cast: Danish Sait, Disha Madan, Rangayana Raghu

Watch on: Amazon prime

- Registration: ₹129 per month

BHAAGAMATHIE (Telugu)

Chanchala Reddy, an IAS officer, is imprisoned in a haunted house for interrogation. However, things take an unexpected turn when she gets possessed by a spirit.

Cast: Anushka Shetty, Unni Mukundan, Asha Sharath, Jayaram

- Watch on: Amazon Prime

LOVE MOCKTAIL (Kannada)

Love Mocktail is a romantic and fun film about the protagonist Aadi's quest for love. Life takes him through a rollercoaster ride and goes through varied experience at several stages throughout his search for true love. Does Aadi finally find his soulmate?

- Cast: Darling Krishna, Milana Nagaraj, Amrutha Iyengar
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

KERALA VARMA PAZHASSI RAJA (Malayalam)

In 1796, Kerala Varma, king of Pazhassi, leaves his kingdom due to the East India Company and seeks refuge in the Wayanad forests. He then uses guerrilla warfare tactics against his enemies.

Cast: Mammootty, Padmapriya Janakiraman, Thilakan, Kanika

- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

HERO (Tamil)

Shakthi, a young man, helps Mathi, a student, exhibit her invention at an educational fair. However, when they both are falsely accused of a patent violation, he sets out to prove their innocence.

Cast: Sivakarthikeyan, Arjun, Abhay Deol, Kalyani Priyadarshan

- Watch on: Amazon Prime

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

LAGAAN (Hindi)

During the British Raj, a farmer named Bhuvan accepts the challenge of Captain Andrew Russell to beat his team in a game of cricket and enable his village to not pay taxes for the next three years.

Cast: Aamir Khan, Gracy Singh, Rachel Shelley, Paul Blackthorne

- Watch on: Netflix

JAANE TU... YA JAANE NA (Hindi)

Best friends Jai and Aditi make for a perfect couple but refuse to consider a romantic relationship. However, when they start dating other people, they realise that they are actually in love.

Cast: Imran Khan, Genelia D'Souza, Manjari Fadnnis, Ratna Pathak Shah

- Watch on: Netflix

ENGLISH

SHIMMER LAKE

The story follows a small-town sheriff tracking three bank robbery suspects, one of whom happens to be his brother.

Cast: Benjamin Walker, Rainn Wilson, Wyatt Russell, Stephanie Sigman, Adam Pally

- Watch on: Netflix

CATFIGHT

Two former college friends, who now find themselves in very different walks of life, meet up at a fancy cocktail party. As the two women reconnect, long-buried hostilities, jealousy, and anger explode into a vicious, bloody fight that leaves both of them battered and bruised.

Cast: Sandra Oh, Alicia Silverstone, Anne Heche, Ariel Kavoussi

- Watch on: Netflix

ATYPICAL (Series)

This heartfelt comedy follows Sam, a teenager on the autism spectrum, who has decided he is ready for romance. In order to start dating — and hopefully find love — Sam will need to be more independent, which also sends his mother on her own life-changing path.

Cast: Keir Gilchrist, Brigette Lundy-Paine, Jennifer Jason Leigh

- Watch on: Netflix

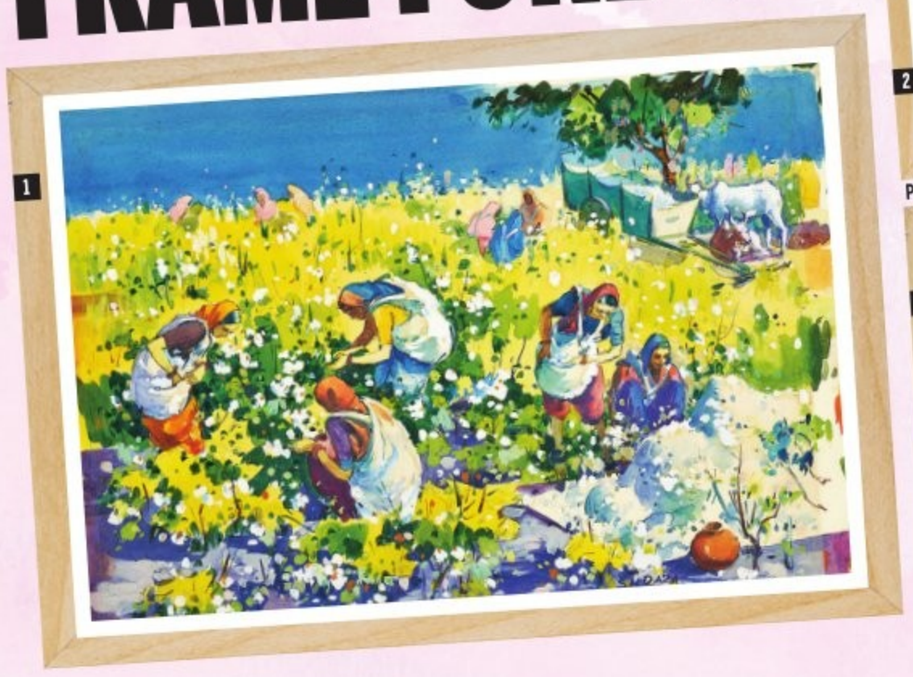
SECRETS OF THE SAQQARA TOMB

After unearthing a tomb that had been untouched for 4,400 years, Egyptian archaeologists attempt to decipher the history of the extraordinary find.

- Watch on: Netflix

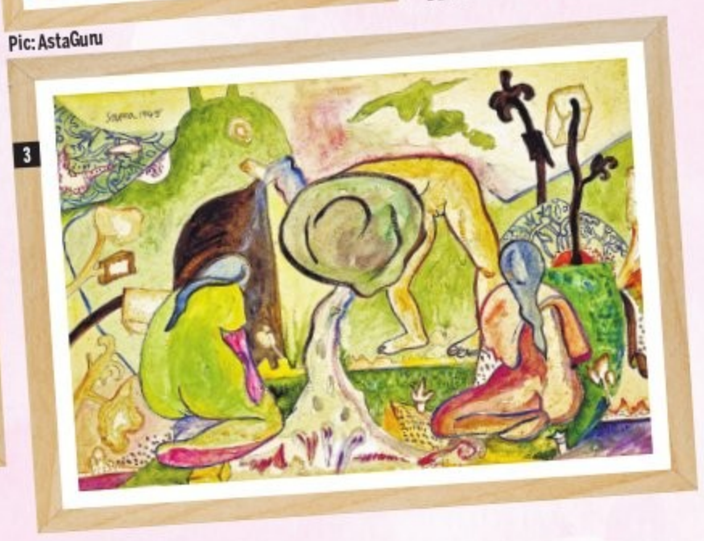
Netflix: ₹199 per month
Disney+Hotstar: ₹ 399 per year
Amazon Prime: ₹129 per month

FRAME FOREVER



This online auction features 100 works, including some pieces by Kannadiga artist KK Hebbar, spanning the spectrum of modern Indian art

Pic: AstaGuru



Artworks by
1. S H Raza
2. KK Hebbar
3. F N Souza

• Express Features

The Indian art market has witnessed an upward trajectory in sales for modern Indian art over the years. Mumbai-based auction house AstaGuru, which has observed a steady demand for modern Indian art from collectors, is presenting an online auction called 'Collectors Choice: Modern Indian Art' on Nov. 18 -19. Among a host of prominent artists whose works will go under the hammer is also KK Hebbar, who spent his early years in Udupi, and then moved to Mumbai. His daughter, Rekha Rao, a noted artist herself, lives in Bengaluru.

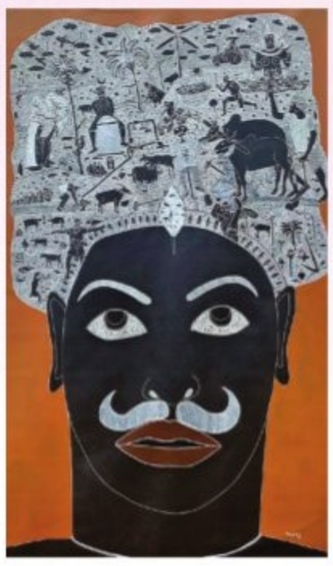
Hebbar's untitled work, an oil on canvas, done in '83, will be on auction. It uses yellow, green, blue and brown as predominant hues, and carries an estimated price of ₹6-8 lakh. "KK Hebbar is one of India's most revered modernists. He established a unique style and became a figure of inspiration for generations to come. As a matter of fact, he was active prior to the advent of post-independence Modernism, and therefore contributed a great deal to the very foundation of Modern Indian Art," says Siddanth Shetty, V P Business Strategy & Operations, AstaGuru.

A highlight of the auction is an early Untitled Chinese ink on paper (pasted on board) work by Tyeb Mehta from '63. Estimated at ₹15-20 lakh, the rarity of this, besides its vintage identity and theme, is also the medium. The work represents a period when Mehta adopted techniques and styles associated with modernist as well as avant-garde art movements in North America and Europe from the 1950s and '60s, and then turned to 'Indian' themes and subjects through the '70s and '80s. The presented lot was originally from the collection of industrialist Sir Biren Mukherjee and Lady Ranu Mukherjee, renowned patrons of the arts.

Shetty adds that the catalogue is an example of the diverse expression of modern Indian art with rare works from the masters across several mediums. "Building a good collection can take years. It requires a keen eye, and a desire to explore, gain exposure, and study the evolution of an artist and their body of work. Enthusiasts collect for several reasons, but they always try to find works which resonate with them and at the same time are telling of the artist's mastery, and ones which form significant milestones in their oeuvre," he explains. Their aim through this sale is to present works that have been hand-picked by collectors who understand art. "A number of works in this sale have never exchanged hands and were purchased directly from the artist by their present owners," Shetty adds.

The auction also has several early paper works by masters from the Progressive Artists' Group (PAG), which offer a glimpse into their early explorations as artists. F N Souza's, Untitled, gouacheon paper, 1945, making its auction debut at ₹6-8 lakh, which showcases his style that he developed through distortion of form. This is evident in Woman as Goddess, oil on canvas, 1975, estimated at ₹20-25 lakh. Other important paper works include S H Raza's Untitled, watercolour on paper, circa 1940, estimated at ₹10-15 lakh, and M F Husain's Untitled, watercolour on paper, circa 1980, depicting a galloping horse, estimated at ₹4-6 lakh.

(For details, visit astaguru.com)



• Simran Ahuja

In aid of ART

Young artists often grapple with many worries, asserts painter Gurudas Shenoy. "I would know, because I've been there too. When you are just emerging from an art school or in the profession, you are faced with a lot of confusion and wish for recognition," says the artist, who hopes that an ongoing exhibition by the foundation he set up in memory of his father, G S Shenoy, will provide just the support emerging artists need at this time. Called Punashchetana, it brings togethers works by 16 artists from all parts of Karnataka.

While Covid-19 pandemic brought about a difficult time for everyone, artists particularly struggled with limited access to galleries or material during the lockdown. Shenoy's foundation, the Shenoy Art Foundation – which he set up with his wife, designer Amita Shenoy – decided to offer 16 emerging artists from the state a grant to support them in these times. "Towards the end of April, we gave them the grant amount of ₹12,000 each. They could use this to create works using any theme or medium over the next three months," explains Shenoy.

The resultant creations explore various themes from different stages of the lockdown. Aishwaryan K's artwork series, called 'Overwhelmed', was an immediate response to the first lockdown. "None of use expected to be placed in confined spaces even if it was within our homes. The sudden feelings of anger, sadness, fear, disgust and even happiness was a bit too much, but art kept me sane. The work did not happen at one go, it was done as and when I felt I needed to focus to keep my feelings at bay," says the city-based visual artist.

Others have experimented as well. Take, for instance, Pradeep Kumar D M, who used terracotta roof tiles to display scenes from daily rural life. "I was in my hometown in Davanagere district during the lockdown and I recreated the farm and village scenes I saw around me. I wanted to use the material I was surrounded with and hence the terracotta tiles," says the 32-year-old artist, who adds, "The material I used speaks of my roots and my nativity."

Other works on display include lambani art by Meenakshi, who uses brightly coloured threads and beads on pieces of cloth and household accessories; themes of ecological distress, feminist issues, and transitory moments of simple pleasures in works created by Rudragaud Indi; and watercolour paintings by Manjunath Wali that engage with monuments, heritage sites and cities.

(The works are on display on the foundation's Facebook and Instagram page till Nov. 30.)

The Amnesia Games: BETTER FORGOTTEN?

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

A week ahead of Halloween, 'Amnesia: A Machine For Pigs' appeared as free to download on the Epic Games store. The Amnesia series comprises short games that can be completed in a single sit. The game has puzzles based on exploration. It is best played during nice rainy nights. AMFP released back in 2013, following the release of the more popular 'The Dark Descent'. The question is, is this game worth the memory trip?

AMFP uses the usual horror series intro of a man (a man called Mandus) waking up to a bad dream in his huge bedroom in an old mansion. His next move, not surprisingly, is to explore all dark corners of the house. His children call out to him, and we are forced to run towards their voices. However, we promptly see their shadows slide away every time we get close. They are skilled at hide-and-seek.

Apart from interacting with letters around the house, the only useful thing Mandus does is levitate chairs to throw at monsters. We do not see any monsters, so the only explanation for the bodiless voices in the mansion are anachronistic motion-triggered Bluetooth speakers. And the only explanation for us levitating chairs despite foreseeing no harm – is for furniture rearrangement.

My anachronistic speaker hypothesis is strengthened by the existence of several phone-line connections in this mansion. How is it that a house with very dimly lit gas lamps and candles for lights, be besieged by several phone calls, with these phones situated in every other room and corridor? The calls intend to take Mandus on a guilt trip. The effect, however, is weakened with repetition. The allure to finish the game is lost since most of the 'dark secret' is evident in the game's title. However, AMFP succeeds in taking the path of horror by putting the player through constant discomfort. The music succeeds in bringing this out in the most gruesome way: ranging from the ringing strings in the church to the twinkling sounds in the children's room, the whirring of contraptions in the factory, and sudden silences.

Popular opinion reveals that AMFP did not induce true fear like its prequel – The Dark Descent.

AMFP had subtle jump scares, infinite health regeneration, and infinite oil in the lantern – these suit easily scared players like me just fine by encouraging us to stick around and finish the game. In the game's defence, it is also not possible to adapt to everyone's notion of 'true fear' either. For example, I fear the release of the Netflix adaptation of the Assassin's Creed games. 1 out of 3 for AMFP, because it is creepy, but not 3 A.M. creepy.

Dark night, stormy thoughts

• Express Features

It's a rainy, dark night and a pregnant woman is visited by an ominous presence. The scene plays out similarly to any horror film but there's no supernatural being. Instead, the woman is confronted by the ghost of the past, one who represents her repressed memories of her sister getting abused as a child in the hands of a male babysitter. This is the plot of *The Night Visitor*, a new digital play written by American playwright Dierdre Girard, and directed by Bengaluru-based filmmaker Prataya Saha. The play was made as part of a special online streaming event of digital plays called 'Things that go Bump', organised by OnStage Atlanta, a theatre production house based in Georgia.

"I think the idea of a female protagonist talking to her alter ego on a beautifully written script on the topic of child sexual abuse was enough to get us interested in this project. In these times, it is the need of the hour to talk about this topic and bring forth a conversation with the audiences on this," says Saha.

Everything, from the conceptualisation to execution of the under 15-minute play, took over two weeks, with the actual shooting itself taking just five hours. The play stars two city-based women – theatre artiste Shatarupa Bhattacharyya plays the alter ego whereas corporate professional Matuli Madhusmita Swain plays the pregnant woman, Andrea.

"My character is divorced, emotionally vulnerable and financially struggling, while invested in a relationship which she knows is not right for her and her daughters. She talks herself out of self-introspection, as it means delving into her troubled childhood. How she undergoes a self-transformation on a stormy night, when visited by her past – her fear, her trauma, her helplessness and finally acknowledging her resilience forms the crux of the play," explains Matuli, who adds that the play explores the hidden societal and emotional layers that women carry with them for generations.

Agrees Saha, who adds, "In this very intimate conversation between the protagonist and her alter ego, we not only get to understand how child sexual abuse happens mostly in areas where a child is supposed to be safe but we also understand how denial or lack of help from the victim's guardians affect the victim negatively even in their later years after they have grown up as fully functioning adults." The topic did prove to be intense for the team, which also included Abhishekh Saravanan, who looked after the editing and sound design, and assistant director Siddhartha Swain. Both the actors found different ways to cope. While Matuli found respite in journaling or painting, Bhattacharyya learned that leaving the space for a while allowed her to come back to it with fresh perspective. "It is indeed disturbing. But as an artiste, the purpose with which this play was done was to instigate a conversation around such a topic. To tell people that it is alright to speak up and that one shouldn't feel guilty about it. If something is wrong, it is wrong. Period," she says.

(The play can be viewed on Prataya Saha's social media channels)

"As an artiste, the purpose with which this play was done was to instigate a conversation around child abuse. To tell people that it is alright to speak up and that one shouldn't feel guilty about it
—Shatarupa Bhattacharyya, actor

"The idea of a female protagonist talking to her alter ego on a beautifully written script on the topic of child sexual abuse was enough to get us interested in this project
—Prataya Saha, filmmaker

Celebrating victory

While most people from India witnessed America making history with getting its first female vice president, from the comfort of their homes, actor Meghana Gaonkar was in NYC to witness the euphoria first hand. She posted a picture on Instagram, saying, "Got to witness the presidential elections right now living in the country incidentally, it has been very interesting & an experience in itself. On Election Day, I was walking past trump tower in New York and I was personally intimidated by the security, media, intensity of people's emotions & pre-protest energy in the air even. Now that the results are out & people of America having voted in record breaking numbers & history being created with a woman of indian/African American origin winning the vice-presidency..all's well that ends well..it's a beautiful country with some beautiful human beings..I wish the people of the country much love, peace & happiness."

Good old times

The most missed thing during the lockdown has been having a fun time with friends. Nidhi Subbaiah had put a mega throwback picture on Instagram, reminding all of us what those fun and carefree times were all about. The picture has Shanvi Srivastava, Sruthi Hariharan and others. She captioned it, "Throwback to one of those nights that ended with breakfast the next day!.

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MUSIC DIRECTOR RAGHU DIXIT EXITS *LOVE MOCKTAIL* SEQUEL

Actor-director-producer Krishna, who is bankrolling the project along with Milana Nagaraj, is now said to be in talks with Nakul Abhyankar

• A Sharadhaa

Music director Raghu Dixit, who had got associated with actor-director-producer Krishna for his *Love Mocktail 2* has left the project. The music composed by Raghu Dixit for the first part was one of the major highlights of the film, and sequel had marked their second collaboration. Krishna, who officialy launched *Love Mocktail 2* in June, was happy to work with the music director again. However, it now seems that the two parted ways after business terms did not work out between them. Krishna, who is acting, directing as well producing the film, confirmed the latest news and said, "As a director, I always want him, but as a producer, I could not afford him." He added, "Since the business terms could not be worked out, we decided to change the plans."

Raghu Dixit

Krishna, who is bankrolling the project along with Milana Nagaraj, first wants to complete the shooting for *Love Mocktail* sequel, and then plans to sit with the music team. He is now said to be in talks with music composer Nakul Abhyankar. However, an official confirmation is yet to be made. Buzz about town is also that Jhankar Music is in talks to buy the music rights of *Love Mocktail 2*.

"Music director-singer Nakul Abhyankar was a part of *Love Mocktail*, in which he sang two songs -- *Love you Chinna* and *Janumagale Kaayuve*. We are in discussions with him. For *Love Mocktail*, I had worked on the music part only after I completed the shooting, and I will be following the same pattern for the sequel as well. We will be concentrating on the re-recording and compositions only after I am done with the shooting," he says.

Love Mocktail 2 has Rachel David playing the female lead in her first Kannada film debut. Newcomer Sushmitha will also be seen in an important rolem and also has Kushi Achar and Abhilash in the cast.

Krishna had earlier mentioned that the sequel of *Love Mocktail*, will be an emotional romantic drama, that comes with a lot of humour. He had said that the offering will have varied emotions, but it will not be as intense as the first part, with the characters and situations making the sequel a little more hilarious.

The film has SriCrazyMindz handling the cinematography as well as the editing.

Krishna

Sugar Factory to have Sonal Monteiro on board

The romantic comedy directed by Deepak Aras will feature three heroines paired opposite actor Krishna

• CE Features

A *Sugar Factory*, which brings together director Deepak Aras and actor Krishna for a comedy entertainer will feature three female leads, and the first to come on board will be Sonal Monteiro. The *Panchatantra* heroine, who is part of Darshan starrer *Roberrt* directed by Tharun Kishore Sudhir, and the actor who is currently committed to *Shambo Shiva Shankar*, she now signs *Sugar Factory*.

Krishna, face of *Sugar Factory* had revealed that the title is drawn from the name of a pub in the film and director Deepak Aras has come up with a unique script filled with humour.

SugarFactory is produced by Girish R under the banner Balamani Productions. Director Deepak Aras, who has written the story has dialogues written by director Chethan Kumar.

The makers, which plans to take the film on floors from January will begin the first schedule in Bengaluru, and will later head to Mysuru, Goa and also plans to go abroad.

The team, who is on hunt for the other two heroines and rest of the cast has finalised Kabir Rafi and Santhosh Rai Pathaje to score the music and cinematography respectively.

Sonal Monteiro

Johnny Depp exits the *Fantastic Beasts* franchise

• CE Features

Johnny Depp will no longer essay the role of Gellert Grindelwald in Warner Bros' *Fantastic Beasts* franchise. This decision comes in the wake of the Pirates of the Caribbean actor losing a libel case against a UK newspaper.

Depp had earlier sued News Group Newspapers, publisher of The Sun, and the newspaper's executive editor, Dan Wootton, at London's High Court over an April 2018 article that called him a "wife beater", accusing him of assaulting his ex-wife Amber Heard.

In a statement posted on his social media account, Depp said that he was asked by Warner Bros to leave the franchise and he has accepted the request.

"In light of recent events, I would like to make the following short statement. Firstly, I'd like to thank everybody who has gifted me with their support and loyalty. I have been humbled and moved by your many messages of love and concern, particularly over the last few days. Secondly, I wish to let you know that I have been asked to resign by Warner Bros from my role as Grindelwald in *Fantastic Beasts* and I have respected and agreed to that request," Depp wrote.

Depp first played Grindelwald in 2016's Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, and later reprised the role in the 2018 sequel, *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*. The third part was set to go on floors next year.

Aditi Prabhudeva

Aditi Prabhudeva becomes third heroine to take up Ganesh's *Tribble Riding*

The film, directed by Mahesh Gowda, will also feature Megha Shetty and Rachana Inder opposite the Golden Star

• CE Features

After Megha Shetty and Rachana Inder, Aditi Prabhudeva will be the third heroine to join Ganesh's *Tribble Riding*. The comedy family entertainer directed by Mahesh Gowda will have the *Old Monk* heroine sharing screen space with the Golden Star for the first time. She will be joining the sets at Chikkamagaluru from Monday. With *Tribble Riding* as the title, the director had hinted at signing up three heroines, and has brought in a fresh pairing opposite Ganesh.

While this film marks the debut of television artiste, Megha Shetty, it will be the third outing for Rachna Inder, after *Love Mocktail* and *Harikathe Alla Girikathe*. Aditi Prabhudeva is currently one of the busiest actors in Sandalwood, this will be yet another interesting project in her kitty. This is the first film that Ganesh began shooting post the lockdown, and it is currently in its second schedule. Its songs have been composed by Sai Karthik, and lyrics of various tracks have been written by Jayanth Kaikini, Nagendra Prasad, and Chethan Kumar, while director Mahesh has penned one song himself. Cinematography is being handled by Jai Anand. Apart from Ganesh and the three leading ladies, the cast also comprises Sadhu Kokila, Kuri Pratap and Ravi Shankar Gowda. *Tribble Riding* is the local pronunciation of 'triple riding' and the movie will have elements of comedy, love, action, suspense and thrill.

Ganesh

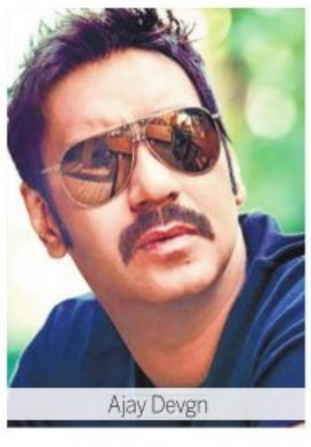
Ajay Devgn, Amitabh Bachchan reunite for *Mayday*, to be directed by Ajay

• CE Features

After memorable outings in *Major Saab, Khakee* and *Satyagraha*, actors Amitabh Bachchan and Ajay Devgn are reuniting once again. Ajay is set to star alongside and direct Big B in *Mayday*, a 'thrilling, absolute edge-of-the-seat human-drama'. It is rumoured that Ajay Devgn will be seen playing a pilot in the film. There are no details on Big B's character yet. The rest of the cast is finalised, the makers revealed in a press note.

Amitabh Bachchan

"Sources say the project will go on floors this December in Hyderabad after Ajay completes his work on Bhuj. Big B is presently shooting for *KBC*," the note read. Mayday is being produced by Ajay Devgn Ffilms. The actor had made his directorial debut in 2008's *U Me Aur Hum*. He had also helmed the action-thriller *Shivaay* (2016).


Ajay Devgn

Radhika Apte on learning French for *A Call to Spy*

• CE Features

Radhika Apte's debut international film, *A Call to Spy*, recently released in the UK and USA. For the film, Radhika had to learn French and adopt a new accent for her character Noor Inayat Khan.

Talking about the process, Radhika shared in an interview, "Noor Inayat Khan was born in Russia, her mother was American and her father was Indian. She was British but spent a long time in France." Her accent, thus, was tough to crack. "It was a tricky task to figure out what her accent should be. I planned on learning the French lines and I wasn't fluent at all. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, I only got the lines a day before the final shot and I was worried as I didn't get enough time to practice. But everyone on the set, from the producers to French actors helped me with the lines so I don't mess up the pronunciations."

Radhika Apte